CLASSIC HORROR TALES

K47721

FEB. 1979

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SCREAMING HORROR ECHOES IN

THE GHOUL

THE INCREDIBLE ZOMBIES

the DEMON PLAYED A GAME OF DEATH

the SEA MONSTERS

AN ACCIDENT CREATED SATAN'S BLOOD BATH

WELCOME ONCE MORE TO MY CRYPT OF SUPERSTITION! ...DONT SNICKER!--THESE ARE THE BELIEFS OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND ME!
RING AGAINST EVIL!
BACK IN THE MIDDLE AGES, IT WAS BELIEVED THAT IF YOU WORE A RUBY RING, IT WOULD PROTECT YOU AGAINST EVIL! ...UH HUH...NOW TELL ME A TRUE STORY!
IN THE WOTJOBALUK TRIBE, IN AUSTRALIA, IT IS BELIEVED, IF A BAT IS KILLED, IT WILL ALSO SHORTEN THE KILLERS LIFE! ...WANT TO GO BAT HUNTING--HMMM?
IF...YOU PICK MARIGOLDS IN A GRAVEYARD, IT WILL DRIVE YOU TO DRINK! AW, GO ON, BE A VAMPIRE--ORDER A BLOODY-MARY!

HORROR TALES

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THE GHOUL

HORACE VENNERY, THE TOWN UNDERTAKER, HAD BUILT UP A NEAT LITTLE SIDE-LINE-ROBBING CORPSES! HE EXTRACTED GOLD TEETH AS WELL AS WEDDING BANDS! AFTER ALL, NOBODY BUT THE DEAD WERE WITNESSES TO HIS PILFERINGS! HOW CAN THE DEAD REVENGE THEMSELVES? DEAD MEN CAN'T STRIKE BACK...OR CAN THEY?

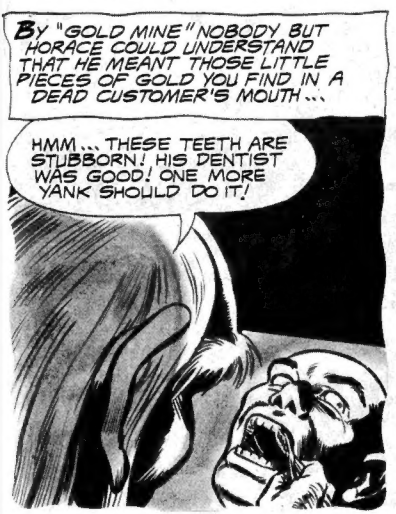
FORTUNATELY, A RAT IS ONLY CONCERNED WITH FILLING HIS BELLY-- HE ISN'T INTERESTED IN RICHES! AHH! WHAT A PITY TO BURY THIS SIX FEET UNDER THE GROUND!

IT SHOULD BRING AT LEAST A THOUSAND DOLLARS!

WHY BURY WEALTH? --- ESPECIALLY WEALTH THAT CAN DO NOTHING FOR THEM?

AND WHO IS THE WISER? THE CEMETERY RATS? THE CADAVERS? HA! THE FOG WILL NOT BETRAY ME!

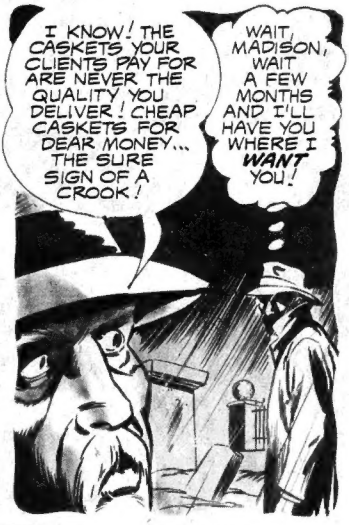
MEANWHILE, I ENRICH MYSELF! FROM THE CASKETS I SELL AND RAID! AND SO ON TO THE NEXT GOLD MINE!


BY "GOLD MINE" NOBODY BUT HORACE COULD UNDERSTAND THAT HE MEANT THOSE LITTLE PIECES OF GOLD YOU FIND IN A DEAD CUSTOMER'S MOUTH...
HMM... THESE TEETH ARE STUBBORN! HIS DENTIST WAS GOOD! ONE MORE YANK SHOULD DO IT!

THERE! ANOTHER NUGGET TO ADD TO MY TRESURE HOUSE!

YES, INDEED... ONE DAY HORACE VENNERY WILL PACK THE CONTENTS OF HIS SAFE IN A TRUNK AND DEPART FOR POINTS WEST AND LIVE LIKE, LIKE A KING!

ONE RAINY AFTERNOON, A WEEK LATER, HORACE FOUND HIMSELF LOOKING ALMOST TOO POINTEDLY AT A STICKPIN IN A PROSPECTIVE CUSTOMER'S TIE...



A MONTH LATER, A BLACK WREATH APPEARED MOURNFULLY ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE TOWN'S LEADING CITIZEN...

EGBERT MADISON'S LIMBS WERE NOT STRAIGHTENED BY HORACE VENNERY'S GREEDY HANDS, BUT OTHER DIFFICULTIES LOOMED...

HORACE VENNERY WAS PRESENT AS THE REMAINS OF EGBERT MADISON WERE PLACED IN THE RECEIVING TOMB...
HOW LONG WILL THE GRAVE-DIGGER STRIKE LAST? THE COFFINS HAVE BEEN PILING UP!
IT CAN'T BE HELPED! WE CAN'T IGNORE THE UNION!
TECHNICALITIES! NOTHING BUT TECHNICALITIES! A MAN CAN'T EVEN BE BURIED DECENTLY IN THIS COMPLEX SOCIETY OF OURS!
LUCKILY FOR ME! HEH! HEH! I WON'T HAVE TO DIG UP OLD MADISON AFTER ALL!!... JUST SNEAK INTO THE RECEIVING TOMB TONIGHT AND PRY OPEN THE COFFIN LID!
THAT NIGHT, AS A STORM RAGED...
HMM... THE CARETAKER IS GETTING READY FOR BED! WHY NOT? WHO SHOULD DISTURB HIS SLEEP? THE DEAD WON'T COME KNOCKING ON HIS DOOR!
FUNNY... MADISON SUSPECTING MY LITTLE SIDELINE! BUT WHAT CAN HE DO ABOUT IT NOW? HE LIES IN A COFFIN, ON A SLAB... DEFENCELESS!
I'LL ALSO HAVE A LOOK INSIDE THE OTHER COFFINS! I'M IN NO RUSH! I'VE GOT ALL NIGHT!
AHH! THERE THEY ARE! MY VICTIMS! I COULD STEAL THE EYEBALLS OUT OF THEIR HEADS AND THE COULDN'T STOP ME!
WE'LL SAVE OLD MADISON FOR LAST! LET'S SEE... WHAT HAVE WE HERE? MRS. RUPERTS AND HER STRING OF PEARLS!
YOU WON'T NEED THESE ANY MORE MRS RUPERTS!

THE WIND SUDDENLY SLAMMED THE CRYPT DOOR SHUT BUT HORACE'S EXPERIENCE WITH THE DEAD CAME TO HIS RESCUE...
I'LL DIG A HOLE THROUGH THE EARTH AT THE TOP OF THE TOMB DOOR! IN A COUPLE OF HOURS I'LL BE OUT OF HERE!
MY NERVES AREN'T UP TO FOOLING AROUND WITH OLD MADISON TONIGHT! I'LL WAIT TILL HE'S BURIED! THEN I'LL RE-INTRODUCE MYSELF! HMM--THIS FORMATION OF COFFINS MAKES A PERFECT LADDER!
AN HOUR AND A HALF LATER!
THAT DOES IT! NOW TO WRIGGLE THROUGH...
Y!!!!!!! M-MY LEGS! SOMEBODY'S STICKING NEEDLES INTO MY LEGS!
Y!!!!!!!! AAEEE!
OOOHHHH! I-IT'S LIKE SOMEBODY SAWED AT MY LEGS WITH A KNIFE!... I'VE GOT TO GET TO A DOCTOR!
LATER, AT DR. WALLACE'S OFFICE...
GOOD GRACIOUS MAN...WHAT HAPPENED? YOU'VE GOT TEETH MARKS ALL OVER YOUR LEGS!
TEETH MARKS!
MADISON! HE GASP NO! IT CAN'T BE!
ONE RAINY NIGHT TWO WEEKS LATER A GRIM HORACE VENNERY INVADED THE CEMETERY! A SEETHING ANGER RAGED WITHIN HIM...
THIS TROUBLE STARTED WITH MADISON! I'LL FIX HIM, ONCE AND FOR ALL!... HERE'S THE GRAVE!
EGBERT MADISON

BUT WHEN HORACE OPENED IT...
IT'S EMPTY! HIS LEGS... T-THEY'RE MOVING!
NO! THEY'RE NOT MOVING! THEY'RE BEING PULLED OUT OF THE COFFIN! IT'S THOSE CURSED RATS! THEY GOT TO HIM FIRST! BUT THEY CAN'T HAVE HIM! HE'S MINE! MINE!
THEY GOT THE PULL OF HORSES! THEY'RE DRAGGING ME AFTER MADISON! NO WONDER THEY GOT TO THE CORPSES BEFORE I DO! THEY'VE GOT A TUNNEL SYSTEM!
I-I CAN'T FIGHT THEM! THEIR PULL IS TOO STRONG! I'LL JUST GRAB THE STICKPIN! THEY CAN HAVE MADISON!
BUT AS HORACE GRABBED FOR THE STICKPIN...
LET GO! LET GO! ... IN HEAVEN'S NAME, WHAT'S GOING ON?
PERHAPS HORACE'S MISTAKE WAS IN THRESHING ABOUT! FOR JUST THEN THE TUNNEL ROOF GAVE IN...
IT'S SEALED OFF THE HOLE! I-- I'M ENTOMBED!
A LOW CHUCKLE SOUNDED IN THE LITTLE TOMB! THE CHUCKLE DIDN'T COME FROM HORACE! IT DIDN'T COME FROM THE RATS WHO CHARGED FOWARD FROM ALL SIDES...
HEEEE HEEEEE!
WHAT CAME OUT OF HORACE WAS A SHRIEK NOBODY PAID ANY ATTENTION TO! LEAST OF ALL THE CEMETERY RATS! BECAUSE TONIGHT THERE WERE TWO COURSES ON THEIR BILL OF FARE!
The End

SATAN'S BLOOD BATH

THE BLOOD STAINED AND GHASTLY TALE OF SIMON FERGUS WHEN HE EXPERIENCED THE HORRIBLE VENGEANCE OF SATAN!

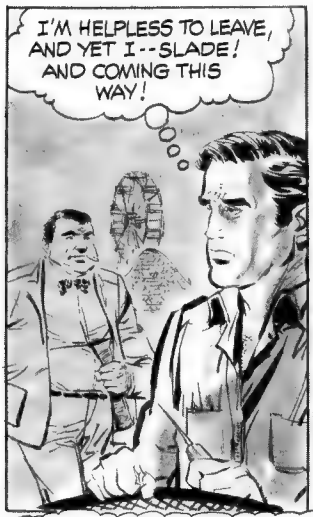
HA! HA! HA! CHOOSE, FERGUS! NOW!

MALGNO

AT A PROSPEROUS CARNIVAL...

LOOK AT THEM! ENJOYING THEMSELVES WHILE I SLAVE FOR MY BREAD AND BOARD! BUT HOW COULD THEY KNOW THAT I ONCE OWNED THIS CARNIVAL WITH SLADE, DRACK AND LEECH!

...AND AFTER THEY SWINDLED ME OUT OF MY SHARE I WAS FORCED TO ACCEPT THIS--JOB--TO SEE THAT MY LITTLE SALLY HAD FOOD TO EAT!


I'M HELPLESS TO LEAVE, AND YET I--SLADE! AND COMING THIS WAY!

I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU, FERGUS! HERE! THROW IT IN THE BASKET! HA! HA!
YES, SLADE!

MISTER SLADE, FERGUS! HA! HA! HA!
YES, MISTER SLADE!

SO IT'S MISTER SLADE, IS IT? THEY GAVE ME THIS JOB TO DERIDE ME AND I'M POWERLESS TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!

THEY KNOW I MUST SUPPORT MY SALLY! BUT I'LL GET MY REVENGE!

AT ANY PRICE!!

SALLY--ISN'T IT TOO CHILLY TO BE PLAYING IN THAT--TORN DRESS?
DADDY, CAN I HAVE A NEW ONE?

WHY...I DON'T KNOW, SALLY... MAYBE WE...
AND A NEW COAT, DADDY? WITH RED POCKETS? I GET VERY COLD AT NIGHT!

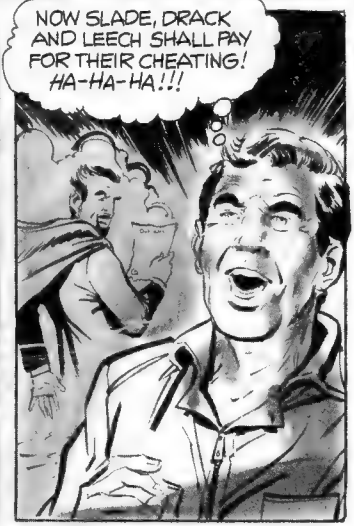
AND LATER, AFTER SALLY IS ASLEEP!
SHE NEEDS CLOTHES AND I CAN'T AFFORD THEM! REVENGE ON SLADE, DRACK AND LEECH FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE TO ME! REVENGE!

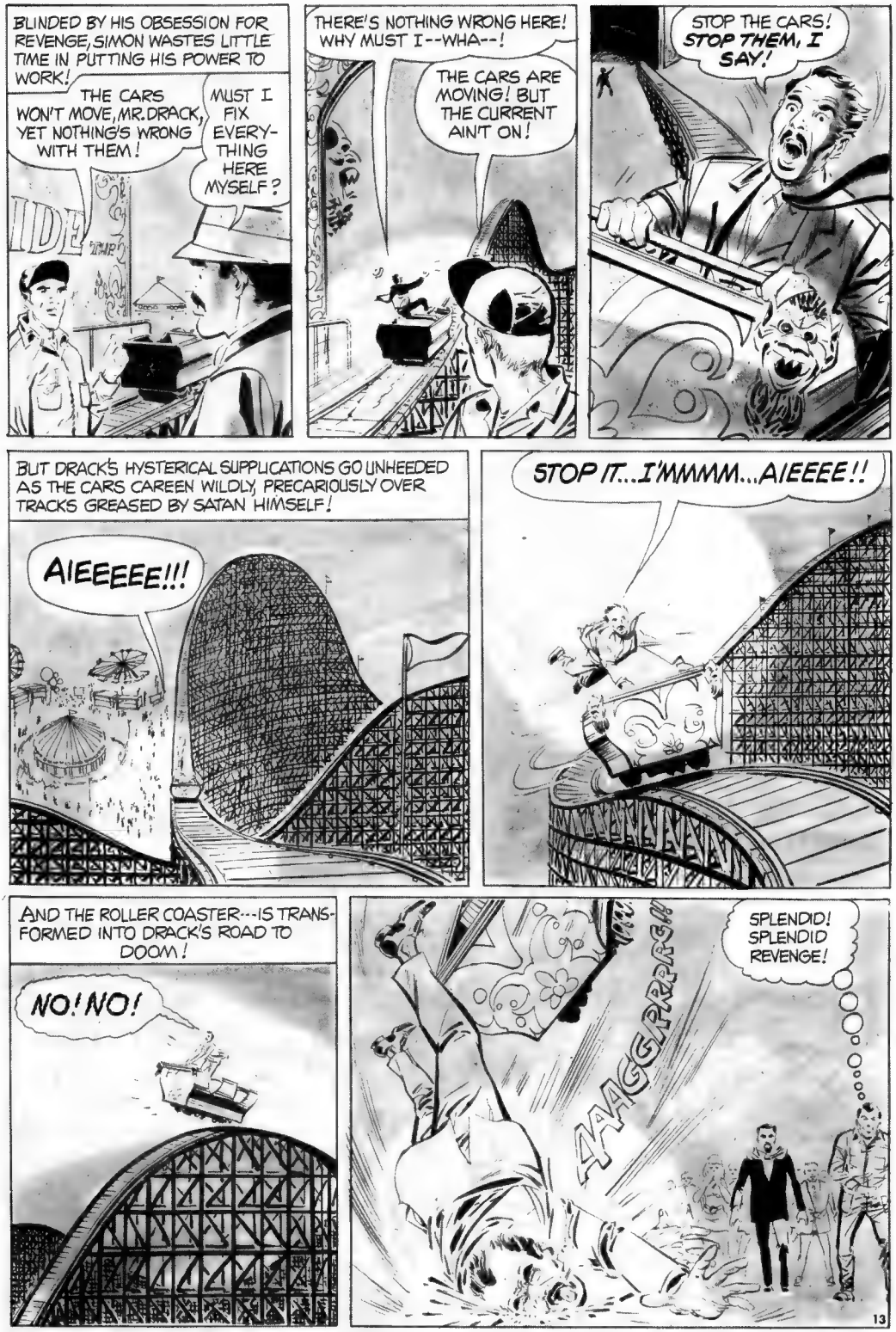
WHY I'D EVEN DEAL WITH THE DEVIL HIMSELF IF ONLY---!

THE ENRAGED TRASH PICKER LOOKS ON IN SILENT AWE AS HIS PLEA IS ANSWERED!

YOU SUMMONED ME, SIMON FERGUS?
I DID!

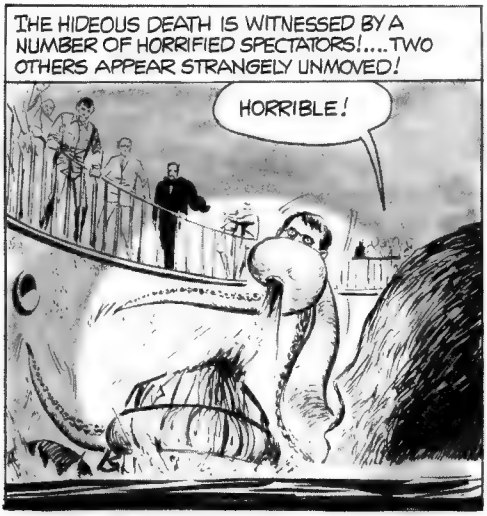
SIGN THIS CONTRACT!
IT IS SIGNED! AND YOUR POWERS ARE MINE!


NOW SLADE, DRACK AND LEECH SHALL PAY FOR THEIR CHEATING! HA-HA-HA!!!


BLINDED BY HIS OBSESSION FOR REVENGE, SIMON WASTES LITTLE TIME IN PUTTING HIS POWER TO WORK!
THE CARS WON'T MOVE, MR. DRACK, YET NOTHING'S WRONG WITH THEM!
MUST I FIX EVERY-THING HERE MYSELF?
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG HERE! WHY MUST I--WHA--!
THE CARS ARE MOVING! BUT THE CURRENT AIN'T ON!
STOP THE CARS! STOP THEM, I SAY!
BUT DRACK'S HYSTERICAL SUPPLICATIONS GO UNHEEDED AS THE CARS CAREEN WILDLY, PRECARIOUSLY OVER TRACKS GREASED BY SATAN HIMSELF!
AIEEEEE!!!
STOP IT...I'MMMM...AIEEEE!!
AND THE ROLLER COASTER---IS TRANS-FORMED INTO DRACK'S ROAD TO DOOM!
NO! NO!
AAGGRRRG!!
SPLENDID! SPLENDID REVENGE!

AS THE CROWD DISPERSES, SIMON FERGUS IS STUNNED AS A FAMILIAR-LOOKING MAN CASUALLY RAISES A HAND TO REVEAL....!
THAT RING! THE DEVIL'S HEAD INSIGNIA!
FERGUS ATTEMPTS TO DISMISS THE INCIDENT FROM HIS MIND! AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER, ERIC LEECH IS EXPOSED TO THE TRASH-PICKERS POWERS!
YOU SAY THIS AIRPLANE RIDE IS YOUR HOTTEST ATTRACTION, ERIC? LET'S TAKE A SPIN AND SEE HOW IT WORKS!
FOLLOW ME IN, WE'LL FASTEN THE SAFETY BELTS, CLOSE THE COCKPIT AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!
YOU'LL SEE, JOHN, THAT IT'S-- WHAT---! THE PLANE! IT'S MOVING!
ERIC! LOOK OUT!
AIEEE! I CAN'T HOLD ON! I'M NOT...
CLUNKAAAAA
AND SIMON FERGUS SMILES THEN IS SHAKEN WITH NAKED FEAR AS A STRANGER IN BACK EXTENDS HIS DEVIL'S HEAD RING!
THAT MAN! IT'S HIM! HE'S EVERY-WHERE!

FERGUS'S DESIRE FOR REVENGE IS TRANSCENDED BY HIS MOUNTING ALARM!
I CAN'T GET AWAY FROM HIM! HE'S CLOSING IN!
HE'LL TAKE ME AWAY FROM SALLY! FROM EVERYTHING! FOR EVER! I'M DOOMED!
DADDY IS SOMETHING WRONG?
WRONG? I--ER--NO, SALLY! EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY!
OKAY...! WHAT CAN I TELL HER...I'M TRAPPED! I CAN FEEL HIM WATCHING ME!
BUT AS A CONDEMNED MAN ORDERS HIS ELABORATE LAST SUPPER, SIMON FERGUS HAS LITTLE RECOURSE BUT TO HAVE THE REVENGE HE BARGAINED FOR SO HIGH A PRICE!
LEAVE IT TO GENDEL SLADE — TO TAKE THE BEST EXHIBIT FOR HIMSELF! HEH-HEH! HOW'S MY PRIZE OCTOPUS TODAY, EH? I....I'M WHAA!
GIANT OCTOPUS
AIIEEEEE!!


THE HIDEOUS DEATH IS WITNESSED BY A NUMBER OF HORRIFIED SPECTATORS!....TWO OTHERS APPEAR STRANGELY UNMOVED!
HORRIBLE!

HE'S HERE! HE'S COME FOR ME!

CRAZED WITH FEAR, SIMON RACES MADLY FROM THE SCENE OF SLADE'S DEATH!
HE'LL NEVER GET ME! I'LL TAKE SALLY AND LEAVE HERE NOW! HA-HA-HA!

RETURNING TO HIS TENT, SIMON FERGUS RAVES WILDLY!
SLADE, DRACK AND LEECH ARE DEAD! THEY'LL MOCK ME NO MORE! HA-HA!

I'VE COME TO COLLECT, SIMON!
NO! I'M RENAGING, SATAN! HA! HA!
-Contract-

FERGUS SNATCHES THE FATE-FUL DOCUMENT FROM THE DEVIL'S GLOVED HAND!
BURN, CONTRACT! BURN! HA-HA!!

AND SO SIMON FERGUS, WHO LIKE SO MANY OTHER MERE MORTALS BEFORE HIM, FAILED TO REALIZE UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE....THAT HE WHO DEALS WITH THE DEVIL MUST ***PAY WITH HIS LIFE!!!***

THE ZOMBIES

WHAT IS THE DREADFUL HORROR ...THE UNBELIEVABLE FORCE THAT PLACES PEOPLE FOREVER IN THE GHOULISH RANKS OF:...

OSCAR FRAGA

DEEP WITHIN THE **DESOLATE WASTES** OF AN OBSCURE ASIAN DESERT, TWO MEN WANDER **DESPERATELY**.

WE...WE CAN'T GO ON MUCH LONGER LIKE THIS!

IT WAS ***FOOLISH*** OF US TO THINK WE COULD FIND A ***LOST CIVILIZATION*** IN THIS DESERT!!

BATES!!! LOOK!! THAT MUST BE A ***CITY*** AHEAD OF US!!

APPROACHING THE CITY IN THE DESERT, THE MEN FIND ONLY DECAY AND SILENCE THAT STRIKES THEM WITH TERROR!
IT SEEMS TO BE THE RUINS OF SOME ANCIENT CITY!
THERE'S A STRANGE FEELING IN THE AIR... AS IF DEATH HAD NEVER LEFT!
SANDERS! LOOK!
YAA-HH
THEY... THEY SEEM LIKE MEN WHO HAVE WANDERED FROM THE GRAVE!
LIKE ZOMBIES!
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH US? WE MEAN YOU NO HARM!
THAT MUST BE THEIR CHIEF APPROACHING!
WE ARE AN ACCURSED TRIBE ...DEAD THESE MANY YEARS... DOOMED BY OUR GOD KALU TO WANDER THE RUINS OF OUR CITY!!
WE CAN RETURN TO OUR BURIAL MOUND ONLY WHEN WE HAVE SHED THE BLOOD OF A LIVING HUMAN!!...

...AND ONE HAS COME TO US AT LAST!!
KALU MUST BE APPEASED!! WE MUST RETURN TO OUR GRAVES!!

SEIZE HIM!
NO! NO! LET ME GO!!

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING HIM?? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO??
KALU CALLS HIM TO HIS SACRED PIT OF KNIVES!! HE MUST BE ANSWERED!!

THE SHARP KNIVES HAVE WAITED MANY YEARS FOR YOUR BLOOD! THEY ARE HUNGRY TO PIERCE YOUR FLESH!
NO!

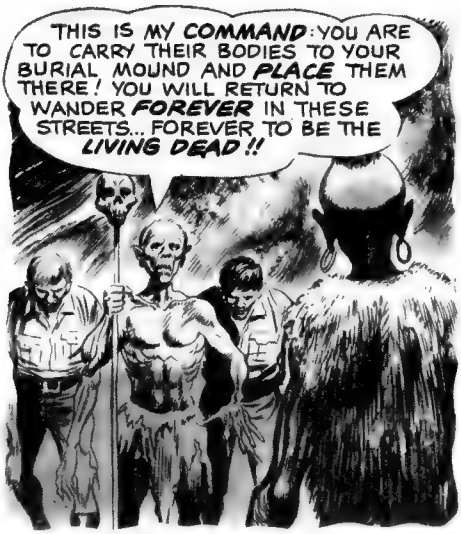
KALU!! HE IS YOURS!
NO!! DON'T!!

SCREAMING WITH THE WILD AGONY BEFORE SUDDEN DEATH, SANDERS IS FLUNG INTO THE DEADLY PIT...
AAARRGHH

AND NOW WE DESTROY HIM, TOO!! KALU WILL BE PLEASED!
WAIT! WE HAVE BROKEN THE CURSE WITH THE BODY OF HIS FRIEND!! THERE IS NOTHING MORE THAT CAN BE ASKED OF US NOW!!
SUDDENLY, AN ANGUISHED MOAN FROM THE PIT OF KNIVES BREAKS UPON THE VOICES OF THE LIVING DEAD...
THE PIT!! A HAND IS RISING FROM THE PIT!!
IT IS HE WHOM WE HAVE JUST THROWN INTO THE PIT!!
WHY DOES HE RETURN THIS WAY?? IS NOT KALU SATISFIED?
MY EYES CANNOT GAZE ON HIM!!
SPEAK TO US!! WHAT IS THE WILL OF OUR GOD??
SUDDENLY, A BOLT OF LIGHTNING ANNOUNCES THE COMING OF THE FEARED ONE THE APPROACH OF A GIANT FROM THE WORLD OF DARKNESS!...

KALU! WE HAVE SHED THE BLOOD OF A LIVING HUMAN...AND YET HE RISES FROM HIS DEATH. WHY IS OUR CURSE NOT ENDED?
MY PIT OF KNIVES IS SACRED! I WILL NOT HAVE IT SOILED BY THIS HALF DEAD MAN! HE MUST GO WITH YOU TO YOUR BURIAL MOUND!!
NO! NO! THIS CANNOT BE!!
KALU, OUR BURIAL MOUND IS SACRED TO US! THE BODY OF THIS MAN MUST NOT REST THERE! WE CANNOT DO AS YOU SAY!
YOU FOOLS! I DEMAND THAT YOU OBEY ME! I AM YOUR GOD AND YOUR LEADER!!
SHOW YOUR OBEDIENCE TO ME!! FLING HIM INTO THE PIT OF KNIVES!! THIS IS MY WILL!!

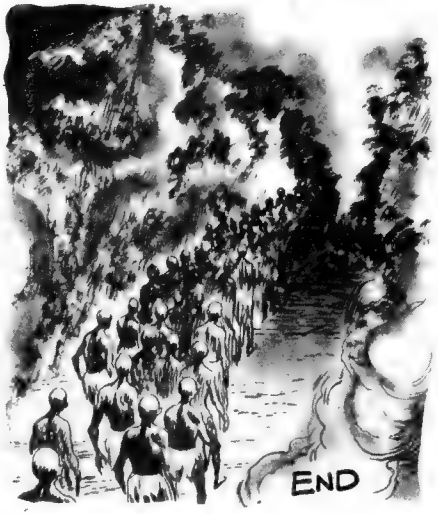
WE WILL NOT DO THIS IF WE MUST BURY HIM IN OUR SACRED GROUND!
NO! NO! WE MUST RETURN ALONE TO OUR GRAVES BEYOND THE HILL!!
THEN I WILL SHOW YOU WHAT IT MEANS TO DEFY ME!!
YAAAH-H-H!! DONT! DONT!
AGAIN A BODY IS TOSSED TO ITS BLOODY DOOM IN THE LOATHESOME PIT...AND AGAIN A SHRIEK OF AGONY...
AARRGHH
KALU! WE KNOW YOUR POWER AND WE BEG FORGIVENESS! WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?
RISE UP FROM THE PIT, MAN OF DISTANT LAND! RISE WITH YOUR DEATH WOUNDS FRESH AND BLEEDING
AS BEFORE A GHASTLY BEING EMERGES FROM THE PIT, DEAD AND YET NOT DEAD.. A KNIFE RIDDEN MASS OF HUMAN FLESH!!...



ONCE MORE A BOLT OF LIGHTNING STRIKES SUDDENLY... AND KALU RETURNS TO HIS PAGAN WORLD OF DARKNESS.

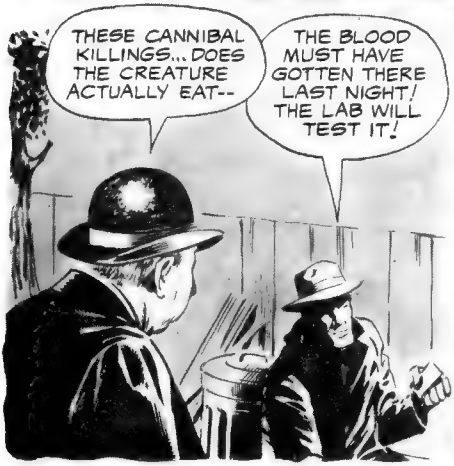
THEIR RAVAGED FACES FILLED WITH DREAD OF THE BLOODY APPARITIONS WHO ARE TO LIE IN THEIR GRAVES THE ZOMBIES BEGIN THEIR TERRIBLE TASK!...

AND SO AS THE DAY DEEPENS THE SILENT DESERT LOOKS UPON A WEIRD PROCESSION OF MARCHING ZOMBIES, DOOMED NEVER TO REST BUT TO WANDER LIKE LOST SOULS THROUGH THE LONG PATHWAYS OF ETERNITY!



THE GRUESOME CANNIBAL

IT WAS STILL A BLEAK DAY IN LONDON AND SOMEONE LOOKED THROUGH AN OPENING IN A FENCE AND GASPED WITH HORROR AT THE SICKENING SIGHT AND SOON A CROWD GATHERED. THE SCOTLAND YARD MEN FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO GET THROUGH...



BEGGIN' YOUR PARDON-- LAST NIGHT I 'EARD AN 'ORRIBLE LAUGH, LIKE A MANIAC, SIR! MY 'USBAND SAYS I WAS DAFT AND...
THAT SETTLES IT, HIGGS-- THAT LAUGH IS HEARD EVERY TIME THERE'S A CANNIBAL MURDER!
NOT EVEN THE DREADFUL PHOTOS COULD KEEP THE STREETS EMPTY OF PEOPLE.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE COMIN' OUT, LIBBY! IT'S DANGEROUS!
A GIRL'S GOT TO WORK FOR HER LIVIN', ALF!
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO IF YOU'D MARRY ME, LIBBY!
I'VE TOLD YOU A DOZEN TIMES-- I JUST DON'T LOVE YOU!
I WAGER YOU'D JUMP AT THE CHANCE IF THAT QUEER CHAP ASKED YOU!
I MIGHT! ANY'OW, SGT. ALF ROSS. IT'S MY BUSINESS WHAT MEN I GO OUT WITH!
EMPLOYEES ONLY
THE MAN IN QUESTION MAY HAVE APPEARED QUEER LOOKING TO SGT ROSS BUT LIBBY HIGGINS FOUND HIM FASCINATING! WHEN HE CAME IN THAT EVENING!
YOUR USUAL MR. DARROW?
RIGHT, LIBBY! ACTUALLY I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET UP THE NERVE TO ASK YOU TO GO OUT WITH ME!
THAT'D BE NICE... BUT I DON'T FINISH TILL MIDNIGHT!
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU...
I DON'T LIKE BUTTIN' IN, LIBBY, BUT I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THAT GENT!
NOT MEANIN' ANY DISRESPECT, MR. MARSH, BUT I'M GOING OUT WITH MR. DARROW TONIGHT!

SGT. ROSS AND RESTAURANT MANAGER MARSH WERE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO WORRIED...

SHE'S A FOOL! HE'S A STRANGER! AND THAT MANIAC STILL LOOSE ON THE STREETS!

JUST 'CAUSE HE'S REFINED EVERYBODY'S SUSPICIOUS OF 'IM! I DON'T CARE-- WE'RE GOING OUT!

AT MIDNIGHT MR. DARROW WAS WAITING...

I WAS AFRAID YOU'D GET TIRED OF WAITIN'!

I'M VERY PATIENT, LIBBY... ESPECIALLY WHEN I'M WAITING FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU!

YOU KEEP LOOKING BACK! IS SOMETHING WRONG?

OF ALL THE NERVE! TWO GALS FROM FREDDY ARE FOLLOWIN' US...

OH? AND WHY ARE THEY DOING THAT?

THEY'VE GONE LOONY ON THE SUBJECT OF THAT CANNIBAL THAT'S WHAT!

PERHAPS I'D BETTER TAKE YOU HOME, LIBBY!

DON'T BE ANGRY, MR. DARROW, AFTER I GIVE THOSE SNOOPS A PIECE OF MY MIND THEY'LL NOT FOLLOW US ON OUR NEXT DATE!

WHEN HE LEFT, LIBBY WAITED FOR AGGIE ANDREWS AND HARRIET TWIG...

I'LL THANK YOU TWO NOT TO HUMILIATE ME AGAIN AND BLIMEY IF YOU TRY IT, SO 'ELP ME I'LL PULL YOUR HAIR OUT BY THE ROOTS!

WELL!

THAT'S GRATITUDE FOR YOU, AGGIE!

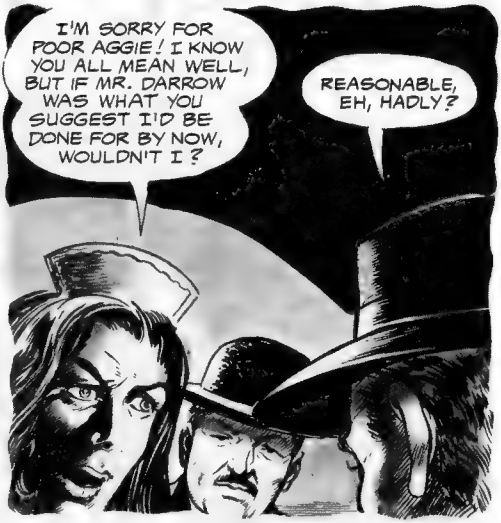
THE TWO REBUFFED ESCORTS, UPSET BY LIBBY'S THREATS, WENT THEIR SEPARATE WAYS! HAVING GONE BUT A FEW BLOCKS, AGGIE SAW IT COMING... SAW ITS WILD INSANE LOOK AND KNEW WHAT IT WAS!

HER SCREAM FROZE IN HER THROAT...

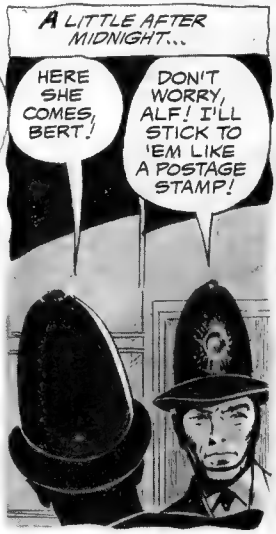
IT WAS LATE THE NEXT AFTERNOON BEFORE THE POLICE LOCATED SOMEONE TO IDENTIFY THE REMAINS!
IT'S HER! IT'S HER! THAT 'ORRIBLE CREATURE DARROW IS THE CANNIBAL MONSTER!
WHO, MISS TWIGS? PLEASE GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF! WHO'D YOU SAY?

HARRIET TOLD HER HALTING STORY...
... BUT DO YOU SUSPECT HIM ONLY BECAUSE YOU DISLIKE HIS LOOKS!
NO! POOR AGGIE WENT OFF IN MR. DARROW'S DIRECTION A MINUTE AFTER HE LEFT!

THAT EVENING THE TWO INSPECTORS QUESTIONED LIBBY IN THE MANAGER'S OFFICE...
WHY DON'T YOU ARREST MR. DARROW IF YOU THINK HE'S YOUR CANNIBAL?
WE MUST CHECK EVERY POSSIBILITY! WHAT HAPPENED TO AGGIE COULD HAPPEN TO YOU!

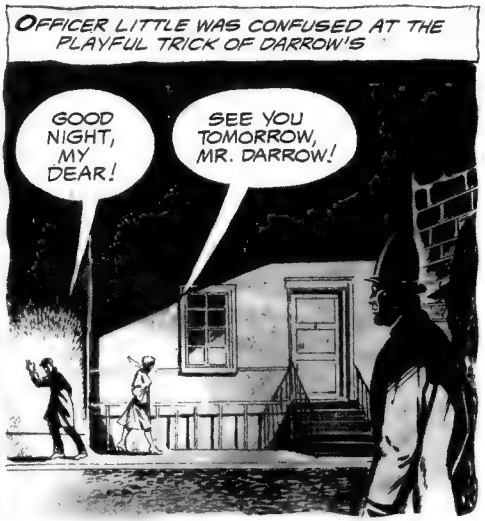

I'M SORRY FOR POOR AGGIE! I KNOW YOU ALL MEAN WELL, BUT IF MR. DARROW WAS WHAT YOU SUGGEST I'D BE DONE FOR BY NOW, WOULDN'T I?
REASONABLE, EH, HADLY?

ON THEIR WAY OUT THEY WERE STOPPED BY SGT. ALF ROSS...
I'D FOLLOW DARROW BUT MISS HIGGINS IS ALREADY ANGRY WITH ME! BUT I HAVE A FRIEND ON THE FORCE...
I UNDERSTAND! AS YOUR FRIEND TO FOLLOW THEM-- UNOFFICIALLY OF COURSE!


A LITTLE AFTER MIDNIGHT...
HERE SHE COMES, BERT!
DON'T WORRY, ALF! I'LL STICK TO 'EM LIKE A POSTAGE STAMP!

THE COUPLE WERE SOON AWARE OF BEING TRAILED...
THAT STUPID BOBBY THINKS I DIDN'T SEE HIM DUCK OUT OF SIGHT!
THE DEVIL WITH HIM LIBBY! LET'S FORGET HIM AND HAVE A GOOD TIME!

THEY'RE UNIFORMED SHADOW WAITED OUTSIDE THE CRYSTAL BALLROOM WHILE THEY DANCED INSIDE FOR SEVERAL HOURS...
MAYBE WHEN THAT BOBBY'S CAUGHT A GOOD COUGH, 'E'LL NOT BUTT IN ON FOLKS!
ON OUR WAY HOME LET'S SEPERATE! HE WON'T KNOW WHETHER TO FOLLOW YOU OR ME!
JAZZ RA


OFFICER LITTLE WAS CONFUSED AT THE PLAYFUL TRICK OF DARROW'S
GOOD NIGHT, MY DEAR!
SEE YOU TOMORROW, MR. DARROW!

SUDDENLY, BEHIND HIM, HE HEARD A STEP AND THEN A MANIACAL LAUGH THAT MADE HIS HAIR STAND!

IN A NEARBY BEDROOM, A MR. LOFTUS HEARD THE STARTLING LAUGH. WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVED, ONLY OFFICER LITTLE'S BONES AND BADGE REMAINED!
OH, BERT... IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
I KNOW IT'S A GREAT SHOCK TO YOU, ROSS!

CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS MONSTER?
WE'RE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE, MR. LOFTUS!

LONDON WAS HORRIFIED WHEN IT LEARNED THAT EVEN THE LAW ITSELF WAS NOT SAFE FROM THE CANNIBAL MONSTER!
THERE'S NO BUSINESS THESE NIGHTS ANYWAY! I'LL LOCK UP AT SIX TILL THAT FIEND IS CAUGHT!
I'D RATHER QUIT SERVIN' MEALS THAN SERVE AS A MEAL MYSELF!

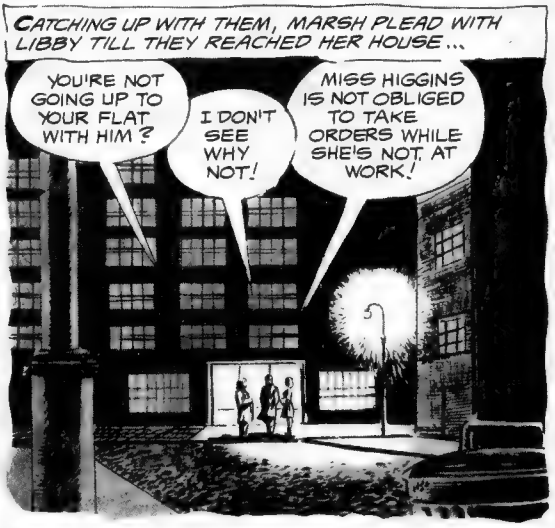
I AIN'T AFRAID! I GOT AN ESCORT TO SEE ME 'OME!
MISS HIGGINS, YOU'RE A FOOL! YOUR MR. DARROW IS THE CANNIBAL! EVERYONE KNOWS IT BUT YOU!

THAT'S UNFAIR, MR. MARSH! HE'S A REAL GENTLEMEN!
ALL THE SAME IT'S STRANGE HE'S BEEN AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD IN EACH OF THE LAST MURDERS!

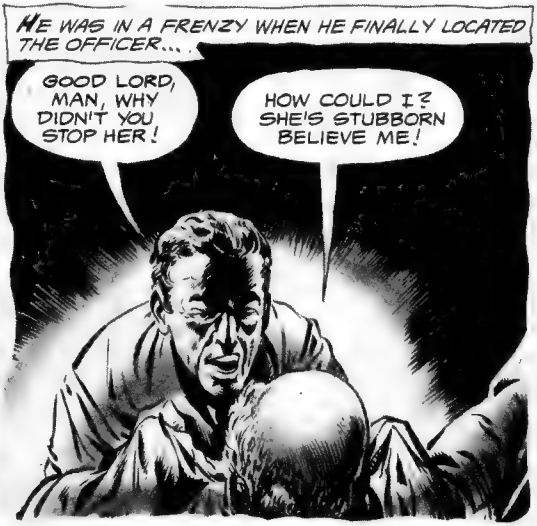
I DIDN'T MEAN TO BE RUDE, SIR!
I'LL ARRANGE FOR YOU TO WORK DAYS TILL THIS UGLY BUSINESS IS OVER!

DESPITE THE WARNINGS, LIBBY MET MR. DARROW AFTER WORK...
MISS HIGGINS...!
GOOD NIGHT, MR. MARSH... LYDIES!

I CAN'T JUST STAND BY! SHE'S A FOOL BUT I'VE GOT TO HELP HER!
LET HER BE, MR. MARSH, SHE REALLY LIT INTO ME AND POOR AGGIE FOR FOLLOWING 'ER!


CATCHING UP WITH THEM, MARSH PLEAD WITH LIBBY TILL THEY REACHED HER HOUSE...
YOU'RE NOT GOING UP TO YOUR FLAT WITH HIM?
I DON'T SEE WHY NOT!
MISS HIGGINS IS NOT OBLIGED TO TAKE ORDERS WHILE SHE'S NOT AT WORK!

MR. MARSH WATCHED AGHAST AS THEY VANISHED INTO THE HALLWAY. THEN...
I MUST GET SGT ROSS... IF I CAN FIND OUT WHERE HE LIVES! CONFOUND IT... HE WOULD BE OFF TONIGHT!


HE WAS IN A FRENZY WHEN HE FINALLY LOCATED THE OFFICER...
GOOD LORD, MAN, WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HER!
HOW COULD I? SHE'S STUBBORN BELIEVE ME!

I'M NOT PERMITTED TO CARRY A GUN, BUT THIS TIME I'D BETTER!
FOR HEAVENS SAKE, SERGEANT, HURRY!!
SGT. ROSS RAN THROUGH THE DARK STREETS... POUNDED FRANTICALLY ON HER DOOR...
LIBBY! LIBBY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? DARROW, IF YOU'VE HARMED HER...
SGT. ROSS STOOD READY WITH HIS GUN... LIBBY OPENED THE DOOR...
LIBBY! THANK GOODNESS THAT CANNIBAL... DARROW! IS HE GONE?
HE'S GONE! AND HE'S NO CANNIBAL!
BLIMEY! I'VE MADE A FOOL OF MYSELF! IT'S ONLY THAT I CARE SO MUCH FOR YOU, LIBBY!
I KNOW YOU DO, ALF, OR I WOULDN'T BE ASKIN' YOU IN!
LIBBY, IT'S MY NIGHT OFF! COME OUT WITH ME FOR A BITE--MAYBE SOME CHOW MEIN!
THANKS ALL THE SYME, DUCKY, BUT I CAN'T EVEN THINK OF FOOD...
LIBBY HIGGINS' SHRILL MAD LAUGH SENT AN ICY TERROR THROUGH SGT. ROSS...
SEE, I TOLD YOU MR. DARROW WAS GONE... EVERY LAST BIT OF HIM! I SIMPLY COULDN'T EAT ANOTHER BITE!
YAAA
The End

THE SEA MONSTERS

THE STRANGE TALE OF THE AQUATIC MAMMALS THAT APPEAR TO BE HALF MAN AND HALF FISH!

FROM OUT OF THE OCEAN DEPTHS THEY SURGED, SCREAMING THEIR HIDEOUS CRIES OF WRATH... BUT EXPLORER PAUL RAYMOND GRIMLY GUNNED HIS CRAFT DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE WHIRLPOOL! HIS POSSESSION WAS THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC FIND OF ALL TIME AND NOT EVEN THE HALF-HUMAN CREATURES OF THE SARGASSO SEA CAN STOP HIM NOW!!!

IN THE LIBRARY OF THE EXPLORER'S CLUB, PAUL RAYMOND SPEAKS WITH HIS ASSOCIATES!
IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC BETWEEN 20°-35° NORTH AND 30°-70° WEST ARE THE GREAT, WATERY WASTES OF THE SARGASSO SEA!
HMPH! A MASS OF SEAWEED AND TREACHEROUS WHIRLPOOLS!
NONSENSE! WE KNOW WHAT GREAT MIRACLES OF NATURE ARE THERE! I BEG OF YOU... HELP ME FORM JUST SUCH AN EXPEDITION!
PAUL... TRY TO BE SENSIBLE!
...THERE'S NOTHING BUT MILES OF THE SEAS! WASTE IN THE SARGASSO SEA!
COWARDS! COWARDS!
I'LL GO MYSELF! IF I CAN'T HAVE YOUR MONEY AND SUPPORT, I'LL FIND ANOTHER WAY!
A WEEK LATER, CAPTAIN BLAINE OF WHALER 11 MAKES A STRANGE ARRANGEMENT...
WITHIN FIFTY MILES OF THE SARGASSO SEA, CAPTAIN, SET ME ADRIFT IN YOUR POWER LAUNCH THERE!
HMM! SO YOU REQUEST THAT I STOP FOR ONLY TWENTY FOUR HOURS ON MY WAY BACK TO PICK YOU UP! BUT IF YOU ARE NOT THERE, I WILL NOT WAIT!
YOU ARE A MADMAN, MR. RAYMOND! BUT MONEY IS MONEY!
OF COURSE! I WILL SUPPLY ALL GAS AND PROVISIONS FOR THE LAUNCH! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE!
THUSLY, WHEN THE WHALING VESSEL HAS CRUISED DEEP INTO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TOWARD THE HUNTING GROUNDS...
THERE'S YOUR ACCURSED SARGASSO SEA, MR. RAYMOND! REMEMBER, I WAIT ONLY ONE DAY FOR YOU!
YES, CAPTAIN! IT'S INTRIGUING! A MYSTIC SEA SWAMP! WHO KNOWS WHAT SECRETS ARE LOCKED IN ITS DEPTHS?

BEST OF LUCK, MR. RAYMOND!
THANK YOU...

BUT, I'LL NEED A MATE ON THIS TRIP... AND YOU'RE GOING TO BE IT!
WHA--? HE'S KNOCKED JOHNSON OVER THE HEAD!

COME BACK, YOU SWINE! I'LL HAVE YOU JAILED FOR THIS!
FOLLOW ME IN IF YOU DARE, CAPTAIN!

PAUL RAYMOND GUIDES HIS LAUNCH THROUGH THE MAZE OF EERIE WEEDS!
THE GUARD I PUT ABOUT THE PROPELLER IS KEEPING THE WEEDS FROM TANGLING IN HER!
OH-H-H. W-WHAT HAPPENED?

AS THE TWO MEN ARGUE, THEY ARE BEING WATCHED BY UNSEEN THINGS!
YOU SHANGHAIED ME INTO THE SARGASSO SEA! I OUGHT TO KILL YOU, RAYMOND!
DON'T BE A FOOL, JOHNSON! WE NEED EACH OTHER TO SURVIVE!

SUDDENLY...
YIIII! A MONSTER WHIRLPOOL! L-LOOK! THERE IN THE WATER!
W-WATER CREATURES! YOU'VE DOOMED US BOTH!

ROUND AND ROUND THE CRAFT SPINS HELPLESS IN THE MONSTER WHIRLPOOL!
YAAA! I'M BLACKING OUT!
M-MERCY... M-MERCY!

AN ENDLESS HOUR OF TORMENT DRAINS THE TWO MEN... THEN...
W-WE'RE STILL ALIVE! GREAT HORRORS!! MR. RAYMOND... MR. RAYMOND!

I-IT CAME OUTA THE WATER!
GREAT HEAVENS!! THE THING SEEMS TO BE HALF FISH--A-AND HALF MAN! BACK IN THE CABIN...QUICK!

BULLETS DON'T PIERCE ITS SCALES! OUT THROUGH THE HATCH; JOHNSON!

T-THAT OCEAN LINER! IF WE GET THERE WE MIGHT HOLD THAT CREATURE OFF!
IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

SUDDENLY...
ARRRGH!
ARRRCKR!
SEIZE THEM!

YAH-HHH!
YAA-A!

THROUGH THE MURKY WATERS, THE TERRIFIED MEN ARE TOWED BY THE AQUA-HUMANS...
THEY'RE TAKING US TO THE LINER... I-IT'S THE JUPITER, IT VANISHED AT SEA TEN YEARS AGO!

WITHIN THE DERELICT LINER, PAUL RAYMOND AND HIS MATE GAZE UPON AN INCREDIBLE SIGHT...

W-WHAT MANNER OF CREATURES ARE YOU? W-WE MEAN NO HARM!

YO SHOULD NOT HAVE INVADED OUR WORLD! I AM **CARPO** THE RULER HERE!

YOU SPEAK ENGLISH? HOW CAN THAT BE? A-ARE YOU CREATURES OF THE SEA...OR HUMANS?

CENTURIES AGO MARINERS LOST IN THE WHIRLPOOL OF THE SARGASSO SURVIVED! THEY LIVED FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE VESSELS DOOMED HERE! WE ARE THEIR DESCENDANTS...

G-GOOD HEAVENS! YOUR BODIES **CHANGED** OVER THE CENTURIES... MAKING YOU HALF AQUATIC, HALF **HUMAN!**

BUT WHAT OF **US**?

IT WAS ALL A MISTAKE! WE **MUST** GET OUT OF HERE!

THERE'S **NO** RETURN FROM SARGASSO CITY! COME...

HENCEFORTH, THIS SHALL BE YOUR HOME! A THOUSAND VESSELS FILLED WITH THE FOODS AND COMFORTS OF HUMANS TO ENJOY! IN TIME YOU WILL BECOME ONE OF US!

NO! NO!

DOOMED, THE PAIR ARE LED TO THEIR QUARTERS...

YOU WILL BE FREE TO ROAM! NO ONE CAN SWIM OUT THROUGH THE SARGASSO WHIRLPOOL... THERE IS **NO** ESCAPE!

A P.T. BOAT...

NOW WE'RE **STUCK** HERE! AND HE SAID WE WILL ONE DAY BECOME ONE OF **THEM!**

TRY TO KEEP YOUR WITS! I'M AS ANXIOUS TO GET OUT AS YOU ARE!

I WAS AN OFFICER ON ONE OF THESE P.T. BOATS! IT HAS THE MOTOR THAT COULD POSSIBLY TAKE US THROUGH THAT WHIRLPOOL!
...BUT HALF THE MACHINERY IS BROKEN OR MISSING!
YES, BUT I KNOW MARINE ENGINES AND THERE ARE ENOUGH VESSELS IN THIS WATERY GRAVE TO REPLACE THE PARTS WE NEED!
HEY... MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. LET'S GO!
SECRETLY, THE PAIR STARTED THEIR ESCAPE PROJECT...
I FOUND THE ENGINE COILS WE NEEDED ON AN OLD CARGO SHIP, JOHNSON!
GOOD! A TANKER WAS FULL OF THIS HIGH OCTANE GAS!
LOOK OUT! DUCK!
CARPO!
DAY AFTER DAY THEIR LABOR CONTINUES...
ALMOST DONE, JOHNSON! ANOTHER HOURS WORK TOMORROW AND WE'LL BE READY FOR THE BREAK THROUGH BACK TO CIVILIZATION!
YIII! YOUR BACK, RAYMOND! YOUR BACK!
M-MY CHEST! SOMETHING LIKE GREEN MOSS GROWING ON IT!
STEADY, JOHNSON! IT'S HAPPENING! WE'RE... TURNING INTO AQUATIC CREATURES!
THE NEXT DAY...
WHAT A MIRACLE OF SCIENCE! I MUST BRING ONE OF THEM BACK AS PROOF! I MUST!
PT

OOOF!
WHA...?

YOU CRAZY? YOU GONE OUTA YOUR HEAD?
START THE ENGINE, JOHNSON! I'M BRINGING BACK A SAMPLE! QUICK!

FULL THROTTLE! WE'LL NEED EVERY OUNCE OF POWER THIS VESSEL HAS!
THEY'VE SPOTTED US! LOOK!
ARRRCKKK!
ARRRCK!
PT3

THEY WANT THEIR LEADER! THROW CARPO OVER THE SIDE, RAYMOND! HURRY!
NO! NO! I'VE GOT TO RETURN WITH HIM!
P

YOU BLASTED FOOL! I'LL THROW HIM IN MYSELF!
DON'T, JOHN! DON'T TOUCH IT OR I'LL KILL YOU!

SUDDENLY...
YAA!
GREAT SCOTT!

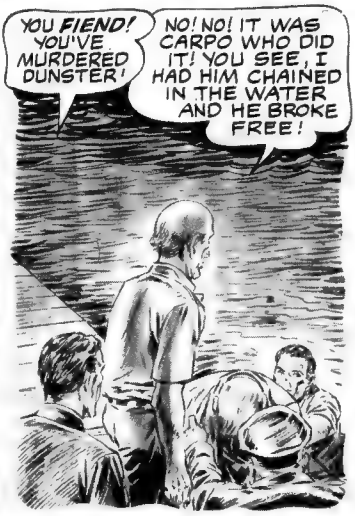
YI-I-I!
JOHNSON! JOHNSON!

THEN, THE RAGING WATERS OF THE WHIRLPOOL CLUTCH THE VESSEL...
I'VE LEFT THEM BEHIND.. NOW I'VE GOT TO GET THROUGH THE WHIRLPOOL...
THE DESPERATE MAN BATTLES THE UNEARTHLY WATERS! FINALLY...
M-MADE IT! GOT TO TIE CARPO UP... HE'S COMING TO! HE'LL BE THE WONDER OF THE WORLD... AND I'LL BE FAMOUS!
PT3
And A WEEK LATER, ARTHUR DUNSTER RECEIVES A STARTLING CALL AT THE EXPLORERS' CLUB...
I TELL YOU DUNSTER! I'VE COME BACK FROM THE SARGASSO SEA WITH A MONSTER! I'VE GOT HIM HERE IN THE WATER!
ALEX WON'T BE IN UNTIL LATER! I'LL LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR HIM AND START OUT!
SOON, DUNSTER ARRIVES AT HIS COLLEAGUE'S SHORE HOUSE...
NOW, PAUL, WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS ALL ABOUT? DO YOU REALIZE THE AUTHORITIES ARE SEEKING YOU OUT FOR KIDNAPPING? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOUR SKIN?
NO MATTER! I'VE UNCOVERED A SCIENTIFIC MIRACLE!
GOOD GRIEF!
I FOUND HIM IN THE SARGASSO SEA... A RULER OF AQUATIC CREATURES, HALF MAN-- HALF FISH!
SUDDENLY...
ASTONISHING... WHA...?
DUNSTER! LOOK OUT!
YOU WERE A FOOL TO HAVE DEFILED THE SECRET OF THE SARGASSO!
STOP! STOP, CARPO!

YOUR OWN KIND WILL PUNISH YOU FOR THIS EVIL! FAREWELL!
NO! DON'T! COME BACK! YOU'VE GOT TO BE SHOWN TO THE WORLD!

THERE HE IS!
I'VE LOST HIM... LOST HIM!

PAUL! THE POLICE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU! I HAD TO INFORM THEM... GREAT HANNAH! Y-YOUR FACE!
I'VE BEEN TO THE SARGASSO SEA, ALEX! I CAPTURED A CREATURE THERE!
LOOK!


YOU FIEND! YOU'VE MURDERED DUNSTER!
NO! NO! IT WAS CARPO WHO DID IT! YOU SEE, I HAD HIM CHAINED IN THE WATER AND HE BROKE FREE!

YOU MUST BELIEVE ME! HE WAS A CREATURE FROM THE SARGASSO SEA! YOU MUST BELIEVE ME!
HE'S COMPLETELY OUT OF HIS HEAD, MR. LOTHER!

DON'T LET THEM TAKE ME! YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME!
WE TRIED OUR BEST TO WARN HIM... AGAINST GOING TO THE SARGASSO!

And IN THE DAYS TO COME, PAUL RAYMOND'S CRIES OF HORROR RANG THROUGH THE COUNTY MADHOUSE NIGHT AND DAY...
COME BACK, CARPO! COME BACK! PROVE TO THEM I'M NOT INSANE!
THERE HE GOES AGAIN! THERE'S NO HOPE OF A CURE!
NO... NO CURE FOR SOMETHING NO DOCTOR CAN EVER UNDERSTAND!
THE END

the Devil's Looking Glass

BENEATH THE FLAP OF THE SECRET COMPARTMENT WAS A STRANGE MESSAGE!
THIS WRITING IS IN REVERSE! I'LL HAVE TO HOLD IT TO A MIRROR TO READ IT!
SPELL LIVED BACKWARD--- D-E-V-I-L!!!
WHY, THAT SPELLS DEVIL!
CORRECT, MR. DANA! I AM AT YOUR SERVICE! STEP INTO THE MIRROR AND HEAR MY SIDE OF THE STORY!
WHY, THIS MUST BE MALVERN HALL AS IT WAS A CENTURY AGO!
EXACTLY! HERE IS OLD TOBIAS MALVERN! HE'S BEEN HOPING SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS WOULD STEP IN TO SEE HIM...
COME! I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE I'LL BURY MY TREASURE WHILE YOU MAKE A MAP OF IT!
GREAT! ...AN' THEN I CAN TAKE IT BACK TO MY OWN TIME!
THE TREASURE WILL BE HERE! BUT EVEN MORE VALUABLE IS THE FORMULA FOR THE GLASS IN MEPHISTO'S OWN MIRROR! THE DEVIL HIMSELF GAVE IT TO ME, BUT IN RETURN, I HAVE TO LIVE MY LIFE OVER AND OVER IN THIS MIRROR WORLD!
GIVE ME THE FORMULA! I'LL PRESERVE IT FOR POSTERITY!
YOU CAN NOT LEAVE!
YOU CAN'T HOLD HIM HERE, MEPHISTO, BECAUSE YOU INVITED HIM THROUGH THE MIRROR!

IT WAS ALL IN OUR PACT-- REMEMBER?
YES! I DID GIVE YOU THE BETTER OF THE BARGAIN, EXCEPT WHERE YOU ARE PERSONALLY CONCERNED, AT LEAST YOU CAN NEVER LEAVE!
BACK IN THE WORLD OF TODAY, DANA LEFT THE ATTIC AND WENT TO THE RUINS OF OLD MALVERN HALL!
BUT, I CAN! SO LONG!
IF I START DIGGING UP THIS RUBBLE, SOMEBODY WILL TIP OFF THE OTHER MALVERN HEIRS! THE DEVIL TAKE THEM! SAY-- THAT'S AN IDEA! THE FORMULA!
ETCHED IN DANA'S EVIL MIND WERE THE DETAILS OF THE PACT BETWEEN MEPHISTO AND TOBIAS MALVERN! HE SAW A WAY TO SCARE THE MALVERNS...
ALL RIGHT, MR. DANA! BUT I'M SURE YOUR FORMULA CONTAINS TOO MUCH SULPHUR AND BRIMSTONE!
I'LL TAKE THE RISK IF THE MIRRORS DON'T TURN OUT RIGHT!

DANA FOLLOWED THROUGH WITH A DIABOLICAL SCHEME...
THE DEVIL'S OWN FORMULA! I'LL COME AROUND IN THE MORNING AND SEE HOW I MADE OUT!
CLICK!
FORGY WAS OVERWHELMED BY THE FUMES... HE COULD NOT ESCAPE!!
I'M... I'M CHOKING!

HELP! HELP! LET ME OUT... GASP
BANG
NEXT DAY...
POOR FORGY! SHERIFF, HE MUST HAVE USED THE WRONG FORMULA AND WAS OVERCOME BY THE FUMES! BUT I'LL STILL BUY THE MIRRORS!
THAT'S MIGHTY FINE OF YOU, MR. DANA!
SO DANA OBTAINED MEPHISTO'S MIRRORS AND PROCEEDED WITH THE NEXT STAGE OF HIS FIENDISH PLAN!
EASY... THOSE CRATES ARE FULL OF MIRRORS!
NOW TO SEND PASSES TO ALL THE MALVERN HEIRS IN THE TOWNS WE PLAY!

YES, DANA KNEW HIS RELATIVES. ALL THE MALVERNS WOULDN'T MISS ANYTHING THEY COULD GET FREE!
HA! HERE'S A PAIR OF MALVERNS NOW!
YES, COUSIN CARRIE, THESE PASSES THAT SOMEBODY SENT US ARE GOOD FOR EVERY AMUSEMENT!
LET'S GO THROUGH THE MIRROR MAZE!
ONCE INSIDE...
YIKES! LOOK!
CARRIE -- HELP ME! I SEE THE DEVIL... HE MUST BE AFTER ME! LET ME OUT OF HERE!
WHY, HUBERT-- YOU'RE GOING RIGHT THROUGH THAT MIRROR!
I'M TRAPPED! HELP ME! CARRIE... ANYBODY!
WHY-- I'VE GONE RIGHT THROUGH A MIRROR, TOO!
AH, ANOTHER DESCENDANT! WELCOME!

PARDON, SIR, BUT I'M LOOKING FOR MR. HUBERT MALVERN AND HIS COUSIN, CARRIE! PERHAPS THEY LOST THEIR WAY IN THE MAZE!
IF THEY DID, YOU'LL SEE THEM AS SOON AS THE MIRRORS ARE PACKED!
I MUST HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN! THEY COULDN'T HAVE GONE INTO THE MAZE!
I KNEW IT WOULD WORK! WHEN THE DEVIL SCARED THEM FROM ONE MIRROR, THEY RECOILED THROUGH ANOTHER! I'M SMARTER THAN MEPHISTO, TO THINK OF SURROUNDING MALVERNS WITH HIS MIRRORS!

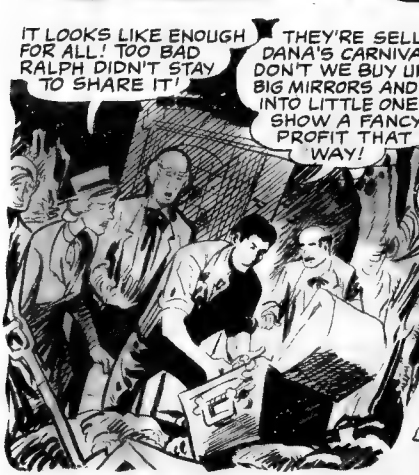
And SO, THE PARADE CONTINUED IN EVERY TOWN...
IS THIS PASS GOOD HERE?
CERTAINLY, MY FRIEND! STEP INSIDE!
HA HA
HA! YOU'D THINK THE DEVIL HIMSELF WAS IN THERE!
BUT, AS THE MALVERNS DWINDLED, SO DID THE GATE RECEIPTS...
HEY, BOYS, HOW ABOUT THE MIRROR MAZE?
EEEK
YEAH-- WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S FACES LOOKING FROM THE MIRRORS AND SCREAMING!
NOT A CHANCE! IT'S SPOOKY!
WHAT IF PEOPLE DO SEE THOSE FACES? NOBODY IS GOING TO HELP THEM EXCEPT ANOTHER MALVERN, AND ALL THE MALVERNS CAN SEE IS THE DEVIL! HA! HA!
JUST ONE MORE--GEORGE LAYTON--AND I'LL DISPOSE OF HIM IN THIS TOWN, THEN I CAN GET RID OF THOSE MIRRORS AND DIG UP THE FORTUNE ALL FOR MYSELF!
THAT'S LAYTON, ALL RIGHT! HE'S THE ONLY PERSON THAT RECEIVED A PASS! I'LL BREAK UP THOSE MIRRORS AFTER THE DEVIL TAKES LAYTON!

YES, DANA HAD IT FIGURED, OR SO HE THOUGHT! BUT FOR SOME STRANGE REASON, LAYTON DIDN'T SEE MEPHISTO IN THOSE MIRRORS!
HELP! PLEASE HELP!
TAKE MY HAND!
MALVERNS!
GET US OUT!
ALL LAYTON SAW WERE FACES OF MALVERN HEIRS! THEY DID NOT SCARE HIM AWAY--AS THEY DID OTHER PEOPLE...
WHY--WHY GEORGE LAYTON! OH THANK YOU!
GIVE ME YOUR HAND!

HERE YOU COME, HUBERT! BUT HOW DID YOU GET IN THERE?
IT'S A LONG STORY! WE'LL TELL YOU AFTER WE SETTLE WITH THE FELLOW WHO TALKED US INTO IT!
AND STILL THEY COME!
WE WANT RALPH DANA WHO RUNS THIS MIRROR MAZE!
COME RIGHT ALONG- AND ALL HOLD HANDS SO YOU WON'T GO THROUGH ANY MORE MIRRORS!

IT'S LAYTON--AND HE'S RELEASED THE REST OF THEM! I BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!
EXIT
THERE HE IS!
30

MY ONLY WAY OUT IS THROUGH THE MIRROR MAZE! BUT I'LL HAVE TO CHANCE IT!
LET HIM GO! THAT'S ONE PLACE WHERE YOU CAN'T FOLLOW HIM!



AND SO, TODAY, IN ANY OF A FEW THOUSAND MIRRORS, YOU ARE APT TO CATCH A FLEETING GLIMPSE OF A HAUNTED FACE... RALPH DANA'S!!!

THE END

MONSTER TOWN

LOOK! LUNA HAS SEIZED TWO FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD!

UGH! SUCH DEFORMED BEINGS!

STEP ASIDE! DR. BONO MAY SAVE THEM IF HE OPERATES!

T-THIS IS FANTASTIC! A VILLAGE OF CREATURES WHERE *WE* ARE THE ONES WHO ARE LOOKED UPON... AS FREAKS!

THE HIDEOUS CREATURES LIVED IN A WORLD OF THEIR OWN... CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TWO MEMBERS FROM OUR OWN SOCIETY FALL VICTIM TO THESE MONSTER...

IN THE DEEP SOUTH DOCTOR JOHN AMES AND HIS WIFE DRIVE ALONG A STRANGE BACK ROAD!

JOHN, YOU'VE BEEN DRIVING ALONG THIS BACK ROAD FOR HOURS! PLEASE... LET'S RETURN TO THE HIGHWAY...

NONESENSE, DARLING! THIS IS THE THRILL OF TOURING... SEEING THE BACK COUNTRY!

SUDDENLY...

BUT, IT'S SO EERIE HERE AND... *JOHN! WHAT'S HAPPENED?*

T-THE BRAKES! I-I CAN'T STOP THE CAR!

DOWN... DOWN TOWARD THE RIVER AHEAD SPEEDS THE CAR! FINALLY...
GOOD GRIEF! JUMP, DORIS! JUMP CLEAR!
THE TWO TOURISTS FLOUNDER IN THE WATER... FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL...
I-I CAN'T MAKE IT...
KEEP FIGHTING... DON'T GIVE UP, DORIS!
THEN, AS THE GASPING WOMAN IS ABOUT TO SURRENDER TO THE CURRENT...
GASP GASP OH-H...
EEEEEEEK! LET ME GO! JOHN! JOHN!
THE WATER CLOSES IN UPON THE WOMAN WHO PREFERS DEATH TO THE TERROR BEFORE HER! ABRUPTLY HANDS CLUTCH AT HER HAIR AND...
UGH! SUCH HORRIBLE DEFORMED BEINGS!
NEVERTHE-LESS, WE MUST SAVE THEM!
G-GREAT HANNAH! W-WHAT MONSTERS... WHAT CAN THEY BE?
PUT HER DOWN, YOU FIEND! DON'T TOUCH HER... YOU'RE FOUL!
WE MUST HELP THEM FOR THEIR OWN GOOD!
Y-YOU ANIMALS... OH-H!
GOOD! WE WILL BRING THEM BACK WITH US TO THE HAMLET!
YES, LUNA... UGH! WHAT SORRY SIGHTS TO BEHOLD!

HOURS LATER, THE REACH THEIR EERIE DESTINATION!
LUNA! WHAT HAVE YOU THERE... MORE OF THE UGLY ONES FROM OUTSIDE?
YES! THESE TWO ARE THE MOST HORRIBLE WE HAVE YET BROUGHT BACK! STEP ASIDE... DR. BONO MUST SEE THEM AT ONCE!
SHORTLY, IN THE DOCTOR'S LABORATORY...
DR. BONO! WE HAVE BROUGHT YOU TWO MORE... BUT I FEAR THESE ARE BEYOND OUR HELP!
AH, LUNA... YOU MUST NOT GIVE UP I WILL EXAMINE THEM IN A MOMENT!
NOW WHERE ARE THEY...O-OH! YOU DID NOT EXAGGERATE! THEY ARE INDEED HIDEOUS, LUNA!
NO! NO! I-I CAN'T LOOK!
GASP!
YES, THEY ARE PARTICULARLY UGLY! LUNA! WE MUST ACT QUICKLY IF WE ARE TO SAVE THEM!
YES!
TOMORROW I WILL OPERATE, NOW TAKE THEM TO THE CONFINEMENT BUILDING! I-I CAN'T BEAR THE SIGHT OF THEM!
O-OPERATE! JOHN... AM I GOING MAD?
STEADY, DORIS...
IN THE DAMP CELL DOCTOR JOHN AMES AND HIS WIFE ATTEMPT TO ANALYZE THEIR FANTASTIC EXPERIENCE!
I-IT MUST BE A DREAM! THIS COULDN'T HAPPEN TO US, JOHN!
I'M AFRAID THIS IS NO NIGHTMARE, DORIS! WE'VE STUMBLED UPON A CIVILIZATION IN REVERSE! THESE UNFORTUNATE CREATURES CONSIDER PHYSICAL BEAUTY UGLY!
I-I SEE! THEN... IN THEIR EYES WE ARE THE FREAKS!
EXACTLY! AND JUST AS OUR PLASTIC SURGEONS FIX DISTORTED CREATURES THESE CREATURES INTEND TO MAKE US LOOK LIKE THEM!

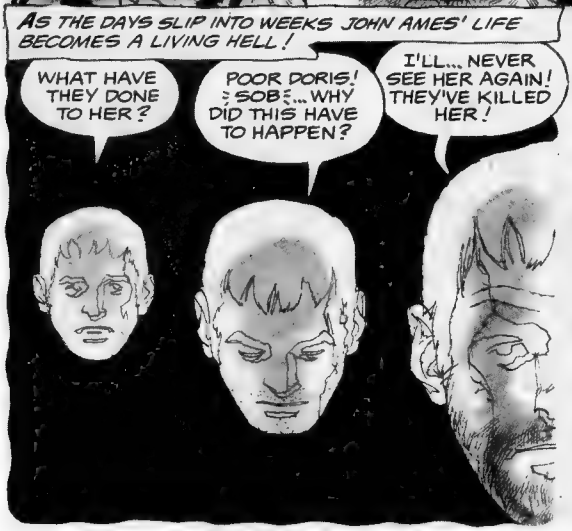
JOHN! YOU MEAN THEY'RE GOING TO OPERATE ON US AND... OH, NO!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE, DORIS!

TERROR STRICKEN, THE HELPLESS PAIR WAIT THROUGH THE LONG NIGHT! THEN...
HURRY! DR. BONO IS AWAITING THE FEMALE IN THE OPERATING ROOM!
HEHEHEHE.. INDEED!
J-JOHN! DON'T LET THEM TAKE ME!

LEAVE HER ALONE! YOU CAN'T DO THIS.. UGHHH!
SILENCE, FOOL! WE ONLY SEEK TO HELP YOU BOTH! YOU WILL THANK US WHEN IT IS OVER!

NO! NO!
PLEASE DON'T DO THIS THING! GIVE YOURSELVES UP TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, THEY WILL HELP YOU!
SURRENDER TO A CIVILIZATION OF FREAKS! NONSENSE! WE KNOW WHAT THEY DO TO NORMAL ONES SUCH AS WE ARE!

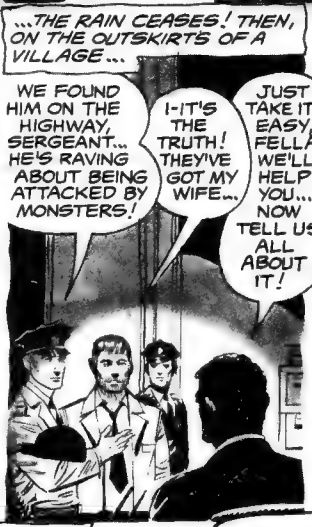
YOU CAGE US LIKE ANIMALS IN YOUR ASYLUMS!
T-THIS IS FANTASTIC! DORIS IS RIGHT! THIS MUST BE A DREAM... A NIGHT-MARE!

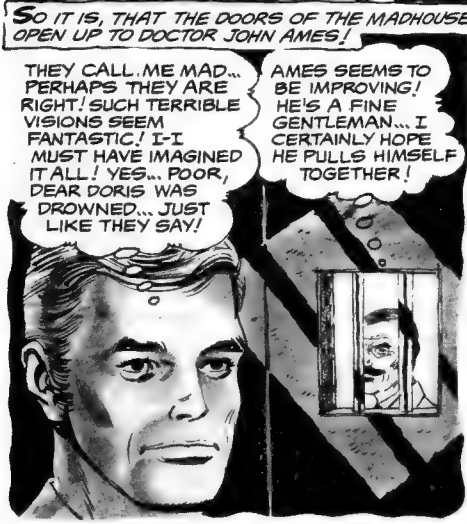

AS THE DAYS SLIP INTO WEEKS JOHN AMES' LIFE BECOMES A LIVING HELL!
WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO HER?
POOR DORIS! SOB... WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN?
I'LL... NEVER SEE HER AGAIN! THEY'VE KILLED HER!

VISIONS OF HIS WIFE'S BEAUTY FILL JOHN'S THOUGHTS THROUGH THE LONG NIGHTS AND DAYS!
OH, DORIS... DORIS! WHAT WILL I EVER DO WITHOUT YOU! THOSE FIENDS... I'LL MAKE THEM PAY FOR THIS!

FINALLY, ON THE FIFTH WEEK THE CREAK OF A DOOR BRINGS AMES TO HIS FEET!
HEE, HEE, UGLY ONE... THE OPERATION IS OVER! BONO HAS SAVED YOUR MATE FROM THE FATE THAT AWAITED HER!
D-DORIS! C-CAN THAT BE DORIS UNDER THE HOOD?
SLOWLY, THE HOOD IS RAISED AND A CRY OF HORROR BREAKS FROM JOHN AMES' LIPS!
G-GREAT MERCY... THAT BRACELET... IT IS DORIS!
YES, JOHN! IT IS YOUR WIFE! I AM VERY HAPPY NOW!
HEE! HEE! AND SOON YOU TOO SHALL HAVE A BRAND NEW, BEAUTIFUL FACE, UGLY ONE!
T-THE FIENDS... THEY'VE STOLEN HER MIND AS WELL AS HER FACE! W-WHAT CAN I DO? WHAT CAN I DO?
DO NOT GRIEVE... SOON YOU WILL JOIN HER AGAIN!
YES, DARLING... I SHALL BE WAITING FOR YOU! TOMORROW BONO SHALL OPERATE ON YOU!
THAT NIGHT, A HEAVY RAIN FALLS INTO AMES' CELL... THE DOCTOR'S MIND REELS UNDER THE IMPACT OF THE HORROR HE HAS SEEN!
IT'S MADNESS... MADNESS! SOMEHOW, SOME WAY, I MUST DO SOMETHING! I MUST ESCAPE... GET DORIS TO A DOCTOR! HMMM, I WONDER...
DOCTOR AMES STOOPS TO HIS KNEES... HIS HANDS DIG DEEP INTO THE SOFT CLAY THE RAIN HAS MADE!
YES, YES... WITH THIS CLAY AND THE STRAW THATCHWORK FROM THE ROOF I MAY BE ABLE TO DO IT! I-I MUST!
AN HOUR LATER, THE GROTESQUE JAILER IS STUNNED AS...
WHAT ARE YOU SHOUTING FOR, UGLY ONE... YIIII! YOU ARE NO LONGER UGLY! YOU ARE... HANDSOME!
YES, YES, YOU FOOL! A MIRACLE HAS HAPPENED! NOW I'M ONE OF YOU... LET ME OUT! LET ME BE WITH MY WIFE AS YOU PROMISED!
THEN, AS THE STARTLED JAILED OPENS THE CELL DOOR...
THERE, YOU DOG! I'M FREE OF YOUR ACCURSED CELL!

INTO THE POURING RAIN JOHN AMES CARRIES HIS STRUGGLING WIFE!





AND IN THE MONTHS TO FOLLOW JOHN AMES DOES PULL HIMSELF TOGETHER SOON THE AUTHORITIES DECIDE HE CAN BE RELEASED!

BUT AS THE DAYS PASS, DR. AMES CANNOT KEEP THE VISION OF HIS LOVELY WIFE FROM HIS MIND!
NO! NO! MAD THEY MIGHT CALL ME BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE IT WAS ALL A NIGHTMARE! I'VE GOT TO KEEP SEARCHING FOR DORIS! SOMEWHERE OUT IN THAT DREADED COUNTRYSIDE SHE MAY BE WAITING!
NIGHT AND DAY, THE HALF CRAZED DOCTOR ROAMS THE WOODS! THEN...
D-DORIS! DORIS! I'VE FOUND HER! S-SHE'S NORMAL ... SHE'S HERSELF!
J-JOHN...
OH, DARLING... IT WAS TERRIBLE! THEY TRICKED YOU! ONE OF THOSE TERRIBLE CREATURES PRETENDED TO BE ME! THEY... STOLE MY BRACELET SO YOU'D BELIEVE IT!
THE FIENDS! THEIR TWISTED BRAINS WANTED VENGEANCE AGAINST US BECAUSE OF OUR NORMAL LOOKS! THEY SOUGHT TO DRIVE US MAD WITH THAT TRICK!
I MANAGED TO ESCAPE WHEN THEY OPENED MY CELL TO FEED ME! I PLACED A LOCK OF MY HAIR IN THE CATCH... OH, JOHN, TAKE ME AWAY FROM THIS TERRIBLE PLACE!
THE POLICE WILL TAKE CARE OF THEM ALL!
SHORTLY, AS AMES AND HIS WIFE PLEAD WITH THE POLICE...
NOW, DOCTOR AMES, YOU'VE BEEN A SICK MAN! I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS WOMAN IS BUT YOU KNOW YOUR WIFE DROWNED IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT!
GOOD GRIEF! I TELL YOU THIS IS MY WIFE AND THERE ARE MONSTROUS DEVILS OUT THERE IN THE WOODS! YOU MUST BELIEVE US!
YOU KNOW IN YOUR DESCRIPTION OF YOUR WIFE YOU DEFINITELY TOLD US SHE ALWAYS WORE A VALUABLE SILVER BRACELET! THIS WOMAN HAS NONE!
WAIT, DEAR... IF WE PERSIST THEY MAY PUT ME BACK IN THE MENTAL INSTITUTION WE'D... BETTER GO!
BUT...
WE'LL JUST FORGET IT EVER HAPPENED, DARLING! AND WE'LL DRIVE BACK HOME!
YES, JOHN... AND THIS TIME WE WON'T TAKE ANY BACK ROADS, WILL WE!
MAD AS MARCH HARES... BOTH OF THEM!
The End

JAVITT RODMAN HAD A MACABRE HOBBY... HE COLLECTED TOMBSTONES. BUT HE LITTLE SUSPECTED THAT ONE DAY, HE HIMSELF MIGHT BE COLLECTED BY THAT GRIM, TERRIFYING COLLECTOR FROM BEYOND WHO HAUNTS THE FINAL RESTING PLACES OF MOULDERING BONES.

TOMBSTONE FOR A GHOUL

SOME PEOPLE ARE CONTENT TO HUNT FOR HUMOROUS EPITAPHS ON TOMBSTONES AND JOT THEM DOWN, BUT JAVITT RODMAN CARRIED THAT GRUESOME PASTIME ONE STEP FURTHER...

RETURNING TO HIS HOUSE, JAVITT RODMAN UNLOCKS HIS BACK ROOM AND GAZES AT HIS COLLECTION...
UNRIVALED! UNMATCHED! NO ONE CAN BOAST A ROOMFUL OF TOMBSTONES LIKE MINE!--AND WHAT PLEASANT READING FOR A STORMY NIGHT! BUT THE BEST PART OF MY HOBBY IS THAT THE DEAD CAN'T PROTEST!
A FEW DAYS LATER, AS RODMAN DRIVES DOWN A SEEMINGLY UNUSED BACK ROAD...
THAT'S STRANGE! WHAT AN ODD PLACE FOR SUCH A MAGNIFICENT MAUSOLEUM!
THERE'S A TOMBSTONE BY THE SIDE OF THE MAUSOLEUM AND IT LOOKS FROM HERE LIKE A PRIZE ITEM FOR MY COLLECTION!
RODMAN... JAVITT RODMAN
HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME? WHO ARE YOU?
HOW I KNOW YOUR NAME OR WHAT I AM MATTERS NOT! BUT HEED MY WARNING--- NEVER ENTER HERE!
BUT THE STRANGE WARNING ONLY SERVES TO EXCITE JAVITT RODMAN'S MORBID CURIOUSITY, AND THAT NIGHT, AS A PALE MOON SILVERS THE SILENT BURIAL TOMB...
THE CARETAKER'S GONE! NOW'S MY CHANCE TO READ THE INSCRIPTION ON THAT TABLET AND IF IT'S WORTHWHILE TO TAKE IT WITH ME!
IT'S M-MY NAME! MY BIRTHDATE! BUT WHOM DID I MEET HERE?
JAVITT RODMAN BORN APRIL 2, 1939

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THAT MY NAME SHOULD BE ON THAT TABLET... WHATEVER SECRET THERE IS TO THIS LURID PLACE MUST BE INSIDE THE MAUSOLEUM! MAYBE I CAN BREAK THE LOCK!

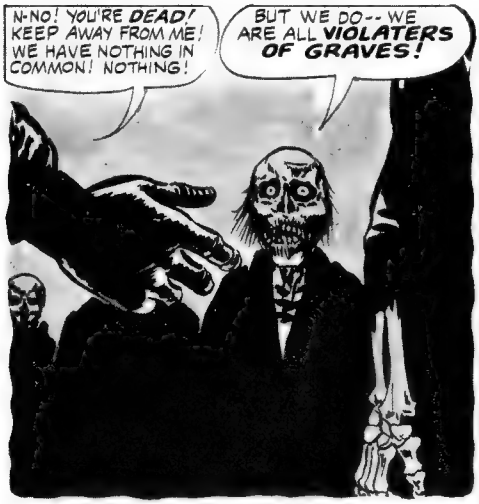
WITH GRIM DETERMINATION, HE TWISTS THE METAL RAKE, AND SUDDENLY...
THERE! IT'S BROKEN! NOW TO SEE WHAT'S BEYOND THESE DOORS!

WITH A MENACING SCREECH, THE HEAVY MARBLE DOORS ARE PULLED OPEN, AND A DARK, SHADOWY FORM FLUTTERS BY...
A BAT! BUT I'M CERTAIN THAT'S THE ONLY LIVING THING IN THIS SILENT TOMB!

FIVE COFFINS, BUT ONE IS OPEN AND EMPTY!

And SUDDENLY, BEHIND THE INTRUDER, A GREEN, MOULDERING HAND OF PUTRESCENT FLESH PUSHES BACK A COFFIN COVER...

WELCOME, JAVITT RODMAN! WE HAVE LONG BEEN EXPECTING YOU!
YES, AFTER ALL, YOU ARE ONE OF US!


N-NO! YOU'RE DEAD! KEEP AWAY FROM ME! WE HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON! NOTHING!
BUT WE DO-- WE ARE ALL VIOLATERS OF GRAVES!

WE UNBURIED THE DEAD WHILE WE WERE THE LIVING AND STOLE WHAT WE WANTED! YOU HAVE ROBBED THE DEAD OF THEIR ONLY IDENTITY AFTER DEATH--THEIR TOMBSTONES!
NO! NO!
AND TONIGHT, YOU HAVE OPENED THE DOOR FOR US! THERE IS A GRAVEYARD NEAR-- COME! THERE IS GHOULISH WORK TO BE DONE!

BUT THE CLAMMY ROTTING HANDS OF THE LIVING DEAD TIGHTEN AROUND JAVITT RODMAN, AND HE IS FORCED ALONG TO A NEARBY CEMETERY...
HERE, JAVITT... TROPHIES FOR ALL OF US! YOU MAY HAVE YOUR PICK OF THE TOMBSTONES!
--WHILE WE LOOT THE GRAVES!

AND AS JAVITT RODMAN STARES IN HORROR, THE FANTASTIC CREATURES HE RELEASED, BEGIN THEIR SORDID WORK...
AH! THE LIVING ARE SENTIMENTAL FOOLS! THEY ALWAYS BURY THEIR DEAD WITH RINGS ON-- GOLDEN RINGS!

AND BY ANOTHER UNEARTHED COFFIN, A PAIR OF SNIPPING SCISSORS BEGIN THEIR LOATHFUL TASK...
HAIR... I ALWAYS GET A GOOD PRICE FROM THE WIGMAKERS FOR THESE STOLEN LOCKS!

And WITH AN EERIE, CREAKING SOUND A THIRD COFFIN IS PRIED OPEN...
COSTLY WINDING SHEETS ALWAYS BROUGHT A HIGH SUM AND THE DEAD ARE NEVER COLD... WE KNOW! AND SO SHALL YOU!
NO! I'VE SEEN ENOUGH! I WON'T STAY WITH YOU!

BUT STRUGGLE IS USELESS, AND RODMAN IS DRAGGED BACK INTO THE MAUSOLEUM...
LET ME GO! LET ME GO!
COME BACK TO THE COFFIN WITH US! ONE IS EMPTY... WAITING FOR YOU! EACH NIGHT YOU CAN JOIN OUR GHOULISH RAIDS!
IN WILD DESPERATION, JANITT RODMAN TRIES TO FREE HIMSELF, BUT HE IS HELD IN A DEATH GRIP...
WHY STRUGGLE? YOU ARE LIKE US! JOIN US!
WHERE'S THE CARETAKER? IF HE'D ONLY COME...HE'D HELP ME NOW!
THE "CARETAKER" WOULD HELP HIM! FOOL! DON'T YOU KNOW WHO HE IS?
HE IS YOUR ENEMY AND OUR ENEMY! WE ALL HAVE VIOLATED HIS KINGDOM!
NO! STOP! I'M NOT DEAD LIKE YOU! I WANT TO LIVE!
THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM HERE! WE ARE YOUR FRIENDS! JOIN US! THIS COFFIN IS YOURS!
NO! IN THE NAME OF MERCY! --STOP!
WE HAVE SHOWN NO MERCY TO THE DEAD! WHY SHOULD WE SHOW IT TO THE LIVING?
And AS THE TERRIFIED GRAVE-THIEF IS SHOVED DOWN INTO THE COLD, STONE COFFIN, THE HEAVY LID IS PRESSED RELENTLESSLY DOWN...
CAN'T PUSH IT OFF... THERE'LL BE NO AIR IN HERE--- I'LL SUFFOCATE!

BUT SUDDENLY, THE FIRST RAY OF DAWNING SUNLIGHT STREAKS INTO THE DANK MAUSOLEUM AND THE DECAYING CORPSES SINK INTO THEIR COFFINS...
JAVITT RODMAN PUSHES UP THE STONE LID! SUDDENLY, IT GIVES...
I'M FREE! THEY'RE GONE--BACK INTO THEIR COFFINS! THE NIGHTMARE HAS ENDED!
BUT ONCE OUTSIDE, JAVITT RODMAN SEES THE SINISTER APPROACH OF THE CARETAKER...
NO ONE WILL KEEP ME HERE NOW! I'LL SMASH MY WAY OUT WITH THIS RAKE! NO DECREPIT CARETAKER CAN STOP ME!
WAIT, JAVITT RODMAN! DESPITE MY WARNING YOU CAME! NOW YOU SHALL STAY!
WITH VICIOUS FORCE, JAVITT SLASHES AGAIN AND AGAIN AT THE SHADOWY FIGURE...
I--I CAN'T HARM HIM!... THE RAKE GOES RIGHT THROUGH HIM!
CRACK!
And SUDDENLY THE CARETAKER'S HAND MAKES A SWEEPING MOTION, AS JAVITT RODMAN SINKS TO THE GROUND...
YOU HAVE VIOLATED MY REALM TOO MANY TIMES! THIS TOMBSTONE YOU SHALL NOT STEAL!
AND ON THE GRAVEN TABLET THE CARETAKER'S BONY HAND WRITES THE LAST WORD OF THE FINAL EPITAPH...
JAVITT RODMAN
BORN
APRIL 2, 1930
WHO MET HERE
DEATH
THE END

DEMON

IN THE DIM, LOST BEGINNING OF THE WORLD THERE LIVED SUCH HORRORS AS TODAY EXIST ONLY IN NIGHTMARES! TERRIBLE GIANT BRUTES WHO ROAMED THE PRE-HISTORIC SWAMPS, DEVOURING EACH OTHER, RENDING WITH CRUEL JAWS ANYTHING THAT DARED TO STAND AGAINST THEM! THEN THE WORLD CHANGED AND THE AWFUL BEASTS DIED OUT! TOTAL EXTINCTION WAS THEIR FATE--SO THE SCIENTISTS TOLD US! BUT ONE THING DID NOT DIE! ONE SMALL **EGG--THE HORROR THAT HATCHED A**

IT MAY HAVE STARTED LIKE THIS--TWO GROTESQUE CREATURES OF THAT WEIRD TWILIGHT WORLD LOCKED IN A FIERCE BATTLE TO THE DEATH! A FEMALE PROTECTS HER EGGS FROM A HUNGRY ENEMY...

BOTH OF THE BRUTES GASP OUT THEIR LIVES IN THE SLIME! THE EGGS, LEFT UNTENDED, DIE OR ARE EATEN BY THE OTHER DENIZENS OF THE PRIMEVAL WILDERNESS! ALL EXCEPT **ONE** EGG, WHICH SOMEHOW ESCAPES...

NOW EONS PASS AND THE ICE COMES, THEN SLOWLY RECEDES! THE EGG, DORMANT, PROTECTED THROUGH THE CENTURIES BY A CASING OF SWAMP MUD, IS FOUND BY MEN AT LAST...

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, SMITH? A DINOSAUR EGG?

NO, TOO SMALL! BUT IT'S OLD! VERY AMAZING FIND, SIR! MIGHT BE A BRONTOSAURUS!

THE EGG ENDS UP IN A MUSEUM IN A LARGE CITY...

WOW! HOW'D YOU LIKE TO HAVE THAT WITH YOUR HAM FOR BREAKFAST?

HEY, KIDS, COME AND LOOK AT THE BIG EGG! IS IT A WHOPPER!

WILBUR-- THE VERY IDEA!

MONTHS PASS AND BITTER WEATHER GRIPS THE CITY! ONE NIGHT THE MUSEUM WATCHMAN TURNS UP THE THERMOSTAT...

NEVER TURNED IT UP SO HIGH BEFORE, BUT IT'S BELOW ZERO OUT TONIGHT! GOT TO KEEP THIS PLACE WARM!

AN HOUR PASSES AND FROM THE EGG THERE COMES A STRANGE SOUND! A SINISTER, STEALTHY, **CRACKING** SOUND! THEN SUDDENLY...

CRACK

CRACK

AND A **THING** IS BORN! TWISTED, GROTESQUE, HORRIBLE, ITS BODY SOMEHOW WARPED BY THE CENTURIES INTO SOMETHING HALF BEAST, HALF HUMAN...

ARRR! GUUUU-- RRRR!

OVUM PREHIST. FOUND AT MT. BOGAR

STILL WET FROM THE EGG, THE MONSTER FROM ANOTHER TIME AND ANOTHER WORLD PROWLS THE DARK CORRIDORS OF THE MUSEUM! ITS BRAIN IS TINY, HELPLESS, BUT INSTINCT RULES IT AND IT IS HUNGRY...

RRRRRRRR! AWGG!

THEN IT SEES THE PREY AND STRIKES WITH A FURY OUT OF THE AGES! WITH SLAVERING JAWS AND CRUEL TALONS IT TEARS THE WATCHMAN TO PIECES...

AAHHH!

EEEEEE

RRRR-- GRRRR!

IT'S IMMEDIATE HUNGER IS APPEASED, BUT IN THE STUNTED BRAIN OF THE BEAST FROM BEYOND THERE IS STILL A VAGUE YEARNING! IT HEADS FOR A GRAVEYARD...
ARRR-GUUU!
THE ANCESTORS OF THE BRUTE WERE CARRION EATERS! NOW, SOMEHOW, IT WANTS THE SAME FOOD! OLD BONES, DECAYING FLESH! THAT IS THE TRUE FOOD OF THIS HORROR...
GRRRR-OWRRRRR-
AND SO A CARETAKER FINDS IT, MUNCHING CONTENTEDLY ON AN OLD BONE...
ARRGG?
YIIEEEEE! W-WHAT IS IT! EATING B-BONES TEARING UP THE GRAVES! EATING B-BODIES, TOO! I GOT TO CALL THE COPS!
I TELL YA I SAW IT! WITH MY OWN EYES! NO, I AIN'T BEEN DRINKING, I TELL YA! SOME KIND OF A TERRIBLE ANIMAL, TEARING UP ALL THE GRAVES! SORT OF LIKE A DRAGON!
YOU BETTER GO SLEEP IT OFF!
THE BRUTE, SENSING DANGER TO ITSELF, FOLLOWS THE CARETAKER! NOW, WITH RED GAPING JAWS...
IT'S AFTER ME! HELP! OHHHH! HELP ME! IT'S GOING TO KILL ME! YOWWWW!
ARRRR!
WHAT IS IT, PETE? SOUNDS LIKE SOMEBODY BEING MURDERED, EVEN OVER THE PHONE!
I THOUGHT IT WAS A DRUNK--NOW I AIN'T SO SURE! WE BETTER GO TAKE A LOOK!
HELP! OWWW!
NOW THE HOURS OF THE BRUTE THING ARE NUMBERED, BUT IT DOES NOT KNOW OR CARE! IT VANISHES INTO THE NIGHT AS THE POLICE CLOSE IN ON THE GRAVEYARD AND FIND THE DISMEMBERED BODY OF THE WATCHMAN...
UGH! I'VE SEEN BODIES BEFORE, BUT THAT ONE! I FEEL SICK!
ME TOO! BUT WHAT COULD DO THAT TO A MAN?
POLICE

BUT THE BEAST FROM YESTERDAY IS LOOSE NOW, SPREADING TERROR IN THE CITY, BUSY EXPLORING THE TEEMING METROPOLIS FULL OF PUNY CREATURES WHICH IT CANNOT UNDERSTAND, BUT INSTINCTIVELY HOLDS IN CONTEMPT...
ARRRRRRR- GRORRRR-
UNTIL AT LAST IT PEERS INTO A WINDOW AND SEES ONE OF THE CREATURES! IT IS NO LONGER HUNGRY, BUT HERE IS SOMETHING ON WHICH TO VENT ITS FEAR AND RAGE...
WONDER WHAT ALL THE EXCITEMENT IS ABOUT? I HEAR SIRENS!
SUDDENLY THE BRUTE CRASHES THROUGH THE WINDOW AS IF IT WERE PAPER...
EEEEEEEE-
GOWRRRRRRR-
LATER, WITH ITS FEAR-CRAZED VICTIM, IT IS TRACKED DOWN AND PINPOINTED BY THE SPOTLIGHTS OF THE BAFFLED POLICE...
DON'T HARM THAT GIRL, WHATEVER YOU ARE! LET HER GO! SURRENDER YOURSELF!
DON'T BE A DOPE, McCANN! THAT THING CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU!
HOWLING WITH RAGE, GNASHING ITS TEETH AT ITS TORMENTORS, THE BRUTE-BEAST HURLS THE HELPLESS GIRL AT THE GAPING CROWD...
MY HEAVENS! THAT POOR GIRL...
EEEEEEE-
RRRRRRRR-
WATCH OUT! GET BACK!
HORRIBLE!
AN ENRAGED COP POURS FUTILE BULLETS AFTER THE FLEEING MONSTER, BUT TOO LATE! IT DISAPPEARS ONCE MORE INTO THE GLOOM...
THAT SLIMY MURDERING THING FROM HADES! BULLETS DON'T EVEN BOTHER IT!
CALL AN AMBULANCE, SOMEBODY! TAKE THIS BODY TO THE MORGUE!

WITH A DEEP AND INSTINCTIVE CUNNING THE BRUTE NOW MAKES FOR A LARGE SWAMP NOT FAR OUTSIDE THE CITY! IT KNOWS IT IS IN DANGER, AND THAT IN THE WARM MARSHLAND IT WILL FIND A HIDING PLACE...

SURE ENOUGH, AS IT SINKS WITH A CONTENTED GRUNT INTO THE SLIME OF THE MARSH, IT FEELS THAT IT HAS COME HOME AGAIN! IT IS AS THOUGH THE MILLIONS OF YEARS HAVE BEEN SLOUGHED AWAY! NOW THE THING WAITS FOR ITS PURSUERS...

SUDDENLY...

BUT THE THING IS WAITING...

AFTER THE POLICE FIND THE MANGLED BODY OF THE DOG...

SUDDENLY, STRIKING FROM BEHIND, WITH A CRUEL AND FIERCE JOY...

HOURS PASS WHILE THE THING RANGES THE SWAMP, BLOODILY FRUSTRATING EVERY EFFORT TO DESTROY IT! AFTER TEN MEN HAVE DIED HORRIBLY THE NATIONAL GUARD IS CALLED OUT...

EASY DOES IT, BOYS! WE WANT TO BLOW THAT MONSTER UP, NOT OURSELVES!

HURRY UP, YOU MEN! AT LAST REPORT IT WAS HEADING THIS WAY!

NOW SOMETHING WHISPERS IN THE BRAIN OF THE BEAST AND IT COMES TO THE SURFACE, EMERGING FROM THE SLIME TO FIGHT ITS LAST...

YAAAAA! LOOK! THERE IT IS!

B-BUT WHAT IS IT?

WITH A TERRIBLE ROAR THE SLIME COVERED BRUTE CHARGES THE FRIGHTENED GUARDSMEN...

B-BULLETS WON'T STOP IT!

YAWRRRRR

LEMME OUT OF THIS!

WON'T ANYTHING STOP IT?

A TRAP WAS SET, BUT AT THE LAST MOMENT...

HELP! OWWW!

YAAAAA!

S-SOMETHING WENT WRONG! THE CHARGE WON'T FIRE!

BUT THE SPARK TAKES AT LAST, TRAVELING ALONG THE DAMP WIRE TO WHERE THE THING IS STILL TEARING AND RENDING AND KILLING...

YARRRRRR!

BLAM!

LATER...

DEAD AT LAST! BUT WHAT ON EARTH WAS IT, SIR?

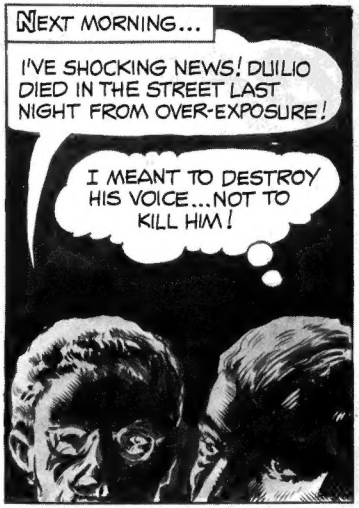
I DON'T KNOW! I DOUBT IF ANYONE DOES KNOW! ANYWAY IT'S OVER NOW!

OVER? HOW THE DEAD BRUTE WOULD LAUGH IF IT COULD! IT HAS DONE ITS WORK--- BECAUSE IT WAS A FEMALE --AND SOMEWHERE IN THE SWAMP IS---ANOTHER EGG!!!

END

SILENT HORROR

A NIGHT OUT IN THE COLD AND RAIN-- AND WHO KNOWS WHAT CAN HAPPEN TO A MAN'S VOICE!


NEXT MORNING...
I'VE SHOCKING NEWS! DUILIO DIED IN THE STREET LAST NIGHT FROM OVER-EXPOSURE!
I MEANT TO DESTROY HIS VOICE...NOT TO KILL HIM!

WE'VE CHOSEN YOU TO CARRY ON IN HIS PLACE!
THANK YOU, SIGNOR, DIRECTOR! I WILL TRY TO BE WORTHY OF DUILIO!

OPENING NIGHT AT THE OPERA....
MY BIG MOMENT IS AT HAND! I MUST NOT BE NERVOUS!
ON STAGE RENATO!

AND THIS IS THE HOUR OF TRIUMPH, DON PEDRO!
STEPANCICH 71

NO, IT CAN'T BE YOU!

NO---DON'T..... AAAAAARRGH...!

HE ACTS LIKE A CRAZY ONE! CURTAIN DOWN AND CALL A DOCTOR, QUICK!

MINUTES LATER...
WILL HE SING TOMORROW NIGHT?
IT IS FUTILE, SIGNOR--HIS VOICE HAS LEFT HIM FOREVER! HE WILL NOT SING AGAIN!
CROAK! CROACK!
The End